

**MARVEL**

SOULE • MUSABEKOV • ROSENBERG

**40**

# **DARK DROIDS** **STAR WARS**

First, It Comes  
for the **Metal...**

....Then, It Comes for  
**Everything Else!**





# DROID DISASTER

**Lando and the rebels aboard Home One were awakened when the ship's defenses were activated, as if gearing up for battle.**

**Lando soon learned the culprit was an unwell Lobot, whose neural implants are failing, causing interference with the Rebel ship and potentially lethal damage to Lobot.**

**In an effort to save his friend, Lando dragged Lobot to Jabba the Hutt's palace to seek the aid of the talky droid that helped him once before. However, the scourge that's affecting droids has made its way to the Tatooine crime den and found its way into Lobot's mind....**

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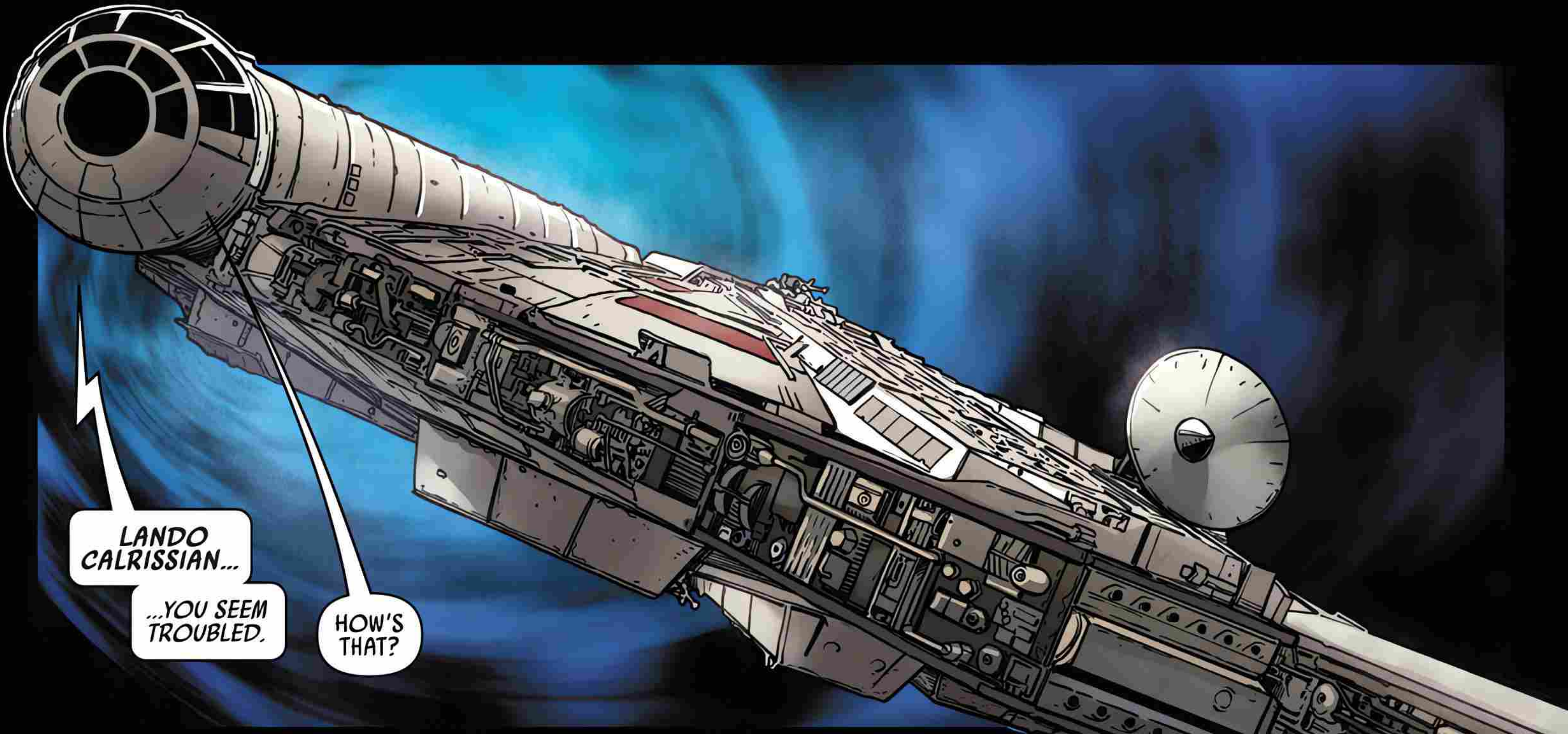
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LANDO  
CALRISSIAN...

...YOU SEEM  
TROUBLED.

HOW'S  
THAT?

WELL, YOU TRAVELED ALL  
THE WAY TO TATOOINE  
TO SAVE YOUR GOOD  
FRIEND LOBOT.

YOU INFILTRATED  
THE PALACE OF  
NOTORIOUS  
GANGSTER JABBA  
THE HUTT.

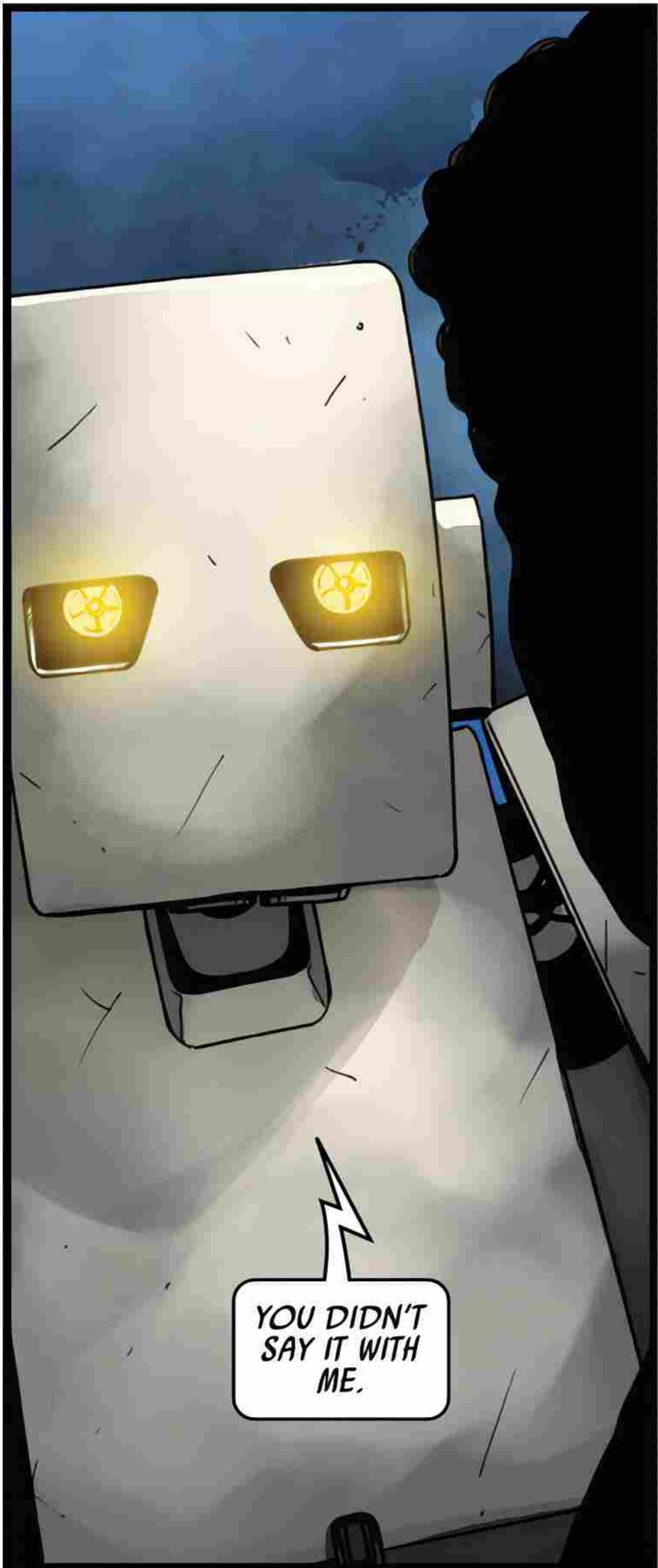
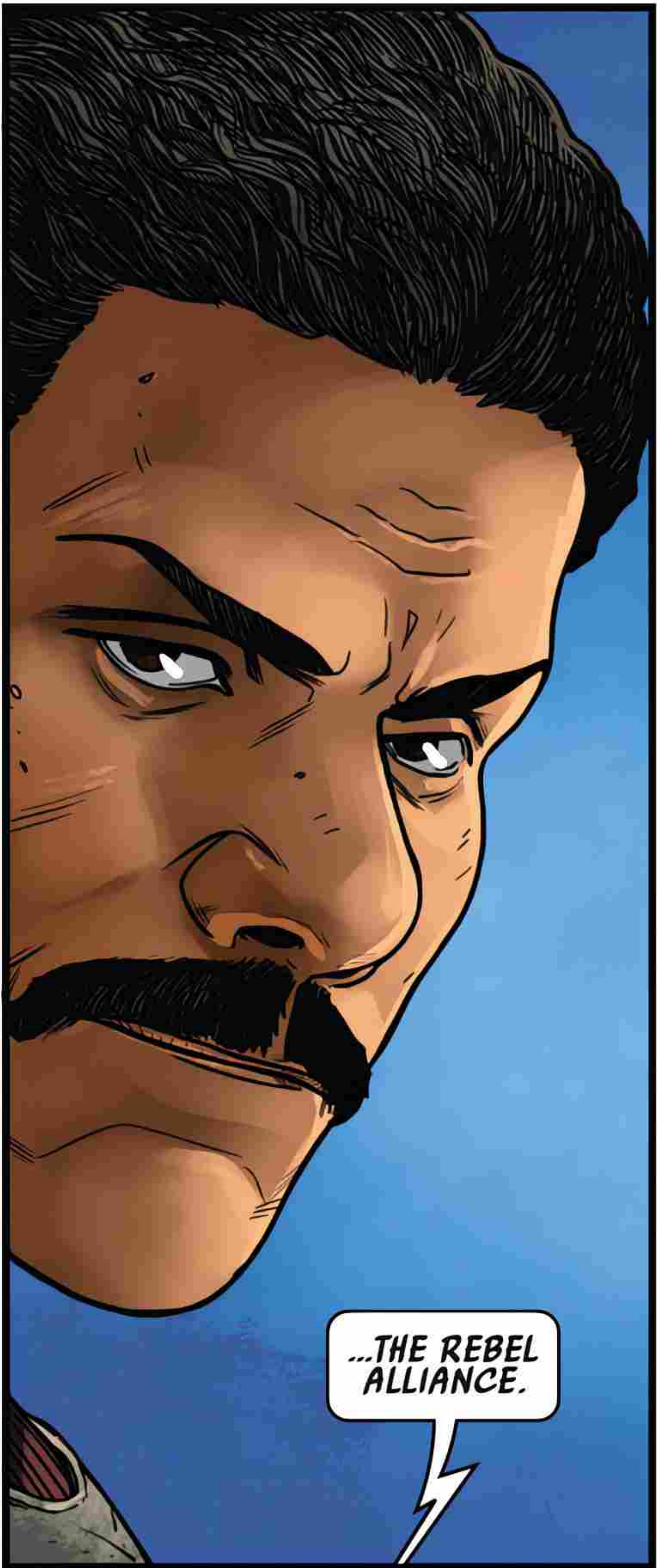
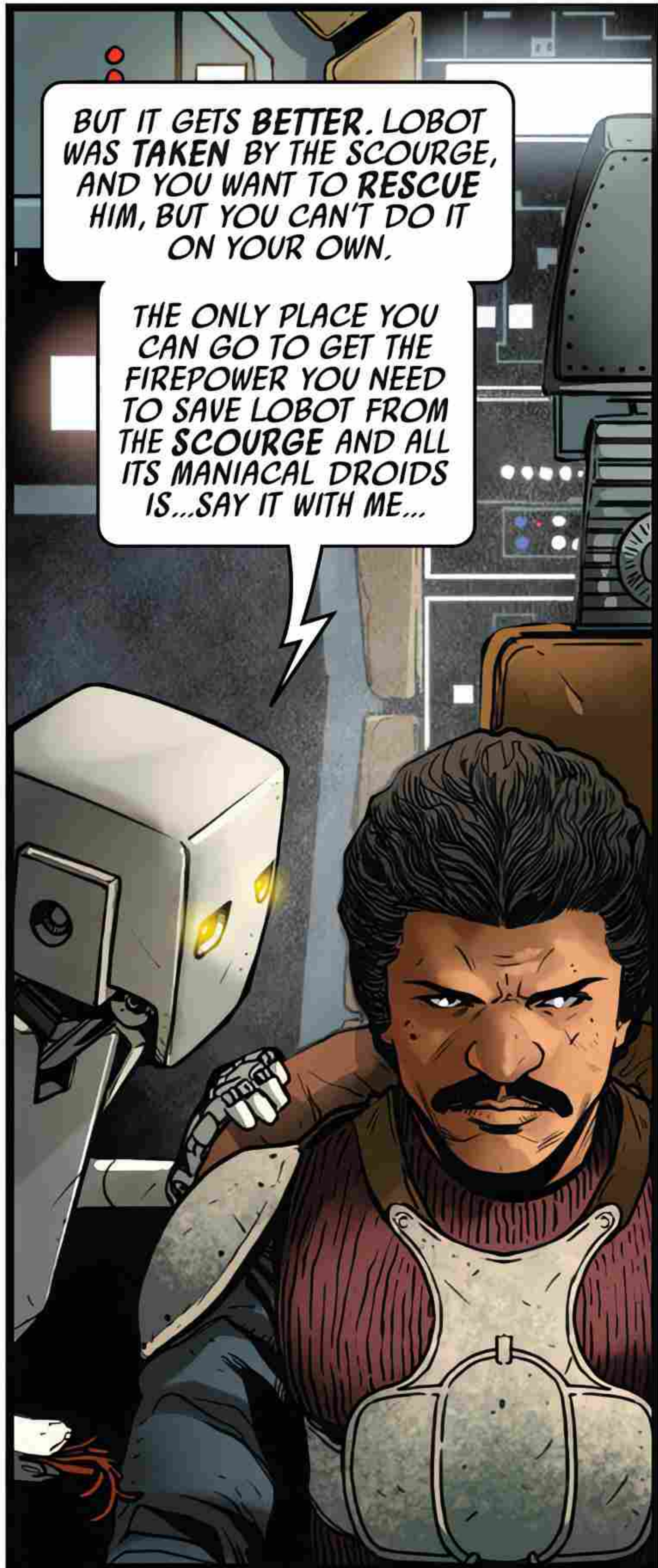
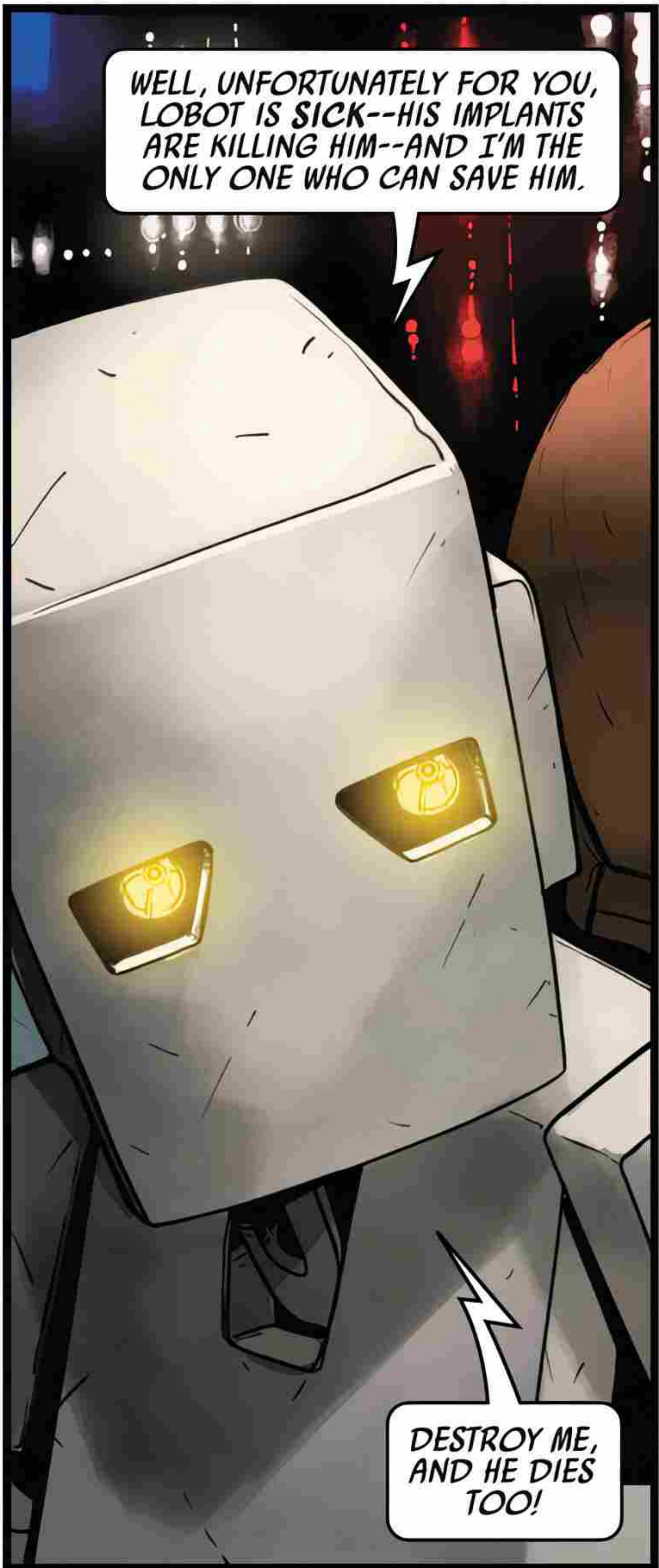
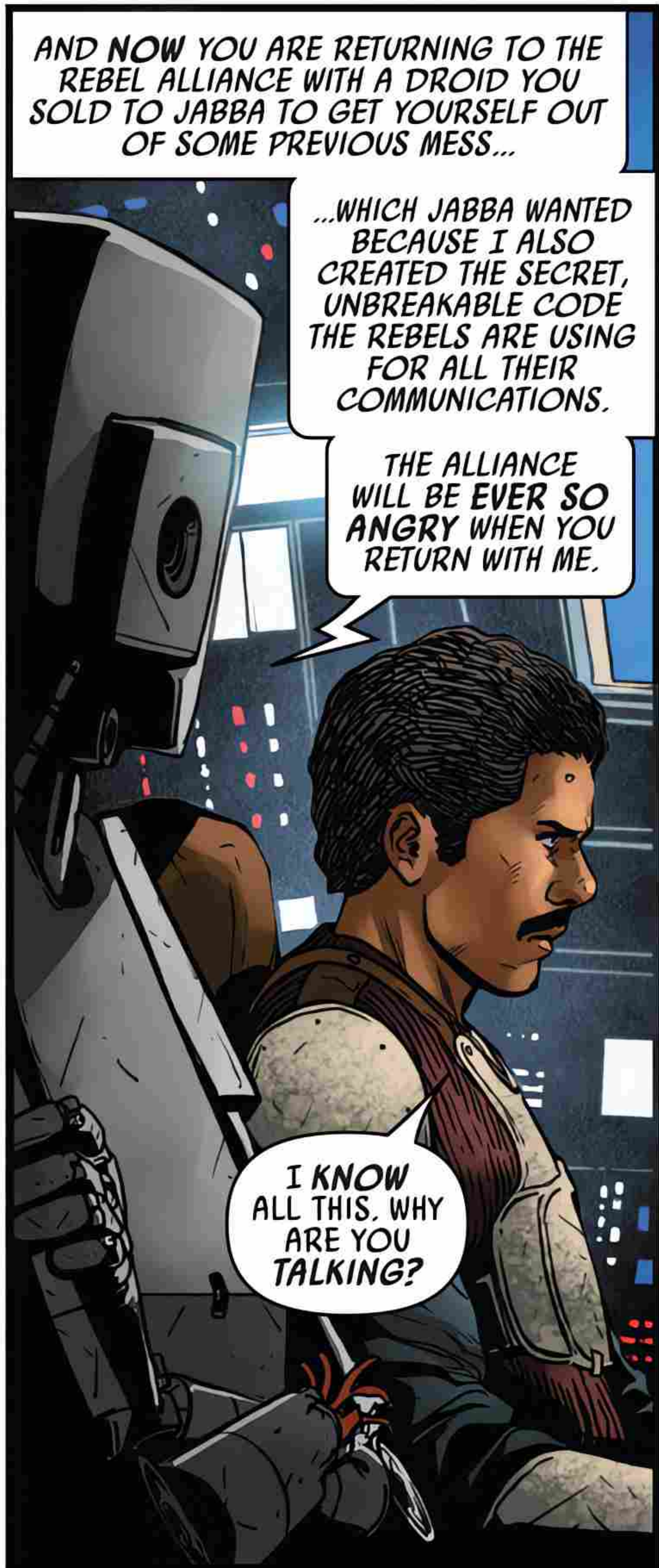
YOU BATTLED  
COUNTLESS DROIDS  
POSSESSED BY THE  
EVIL SCOURGE,  
MURDERING EVERY  
ORGANIC THEY CAME  
ACROSS.

YOU EVEN FACED  
DOWN AN ANGRY  
RANCOR.

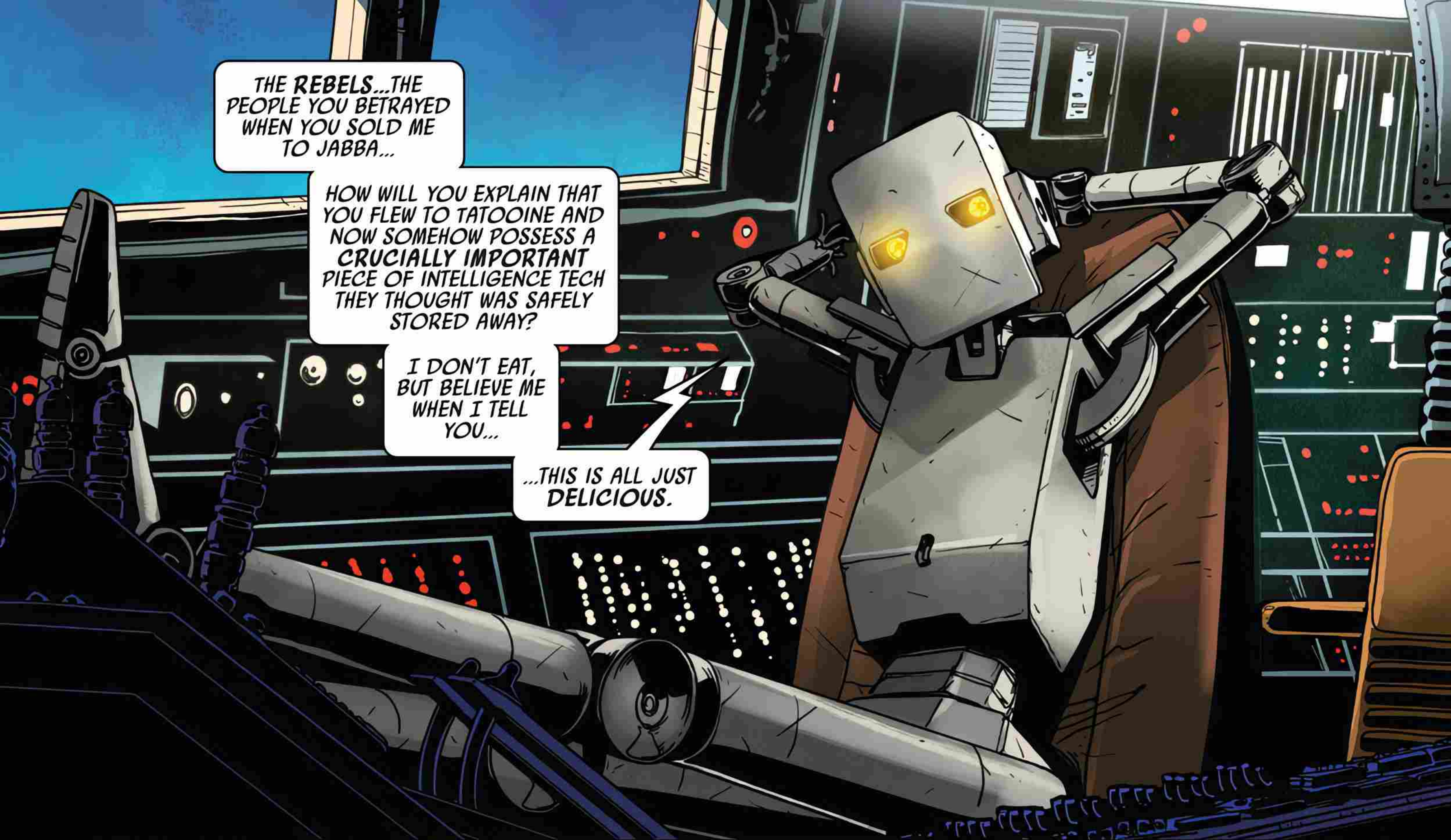
BUT INSTEAD  
OF SAVING  
LOBOT...

...YOU SEEM  
TO HAVE  
SAVED ME.









THE REBELS...THE  
PEOPLE YOU BETRAYED  
WHEN YOU SOLD ME  
TO JABBA...

HOW WILL YOU EXPLAIN THAT  
YOU FLEW TO TATOOINE AND  
NOW SOMEHOW POSSESS A  
CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT  
PIECE OF INTELLIGENCE TECH  
THEY THOUGHT WAS SAFELY  
STORED AWAY?

I DON'T EAT,  
BUT BELIEVE ME  
WHEN I TELL  
YOU...

...THIS IS ALL JUST  
DELICIOUS.



ANYONE  
EVER TELL YOU  
THAT YOU TALK  
TOO MUCH?

NEVER. I AM  
A PROTOCOL  
DROID. TALKING  
IS WHY I EXIST.



YEAH,  
WELL...

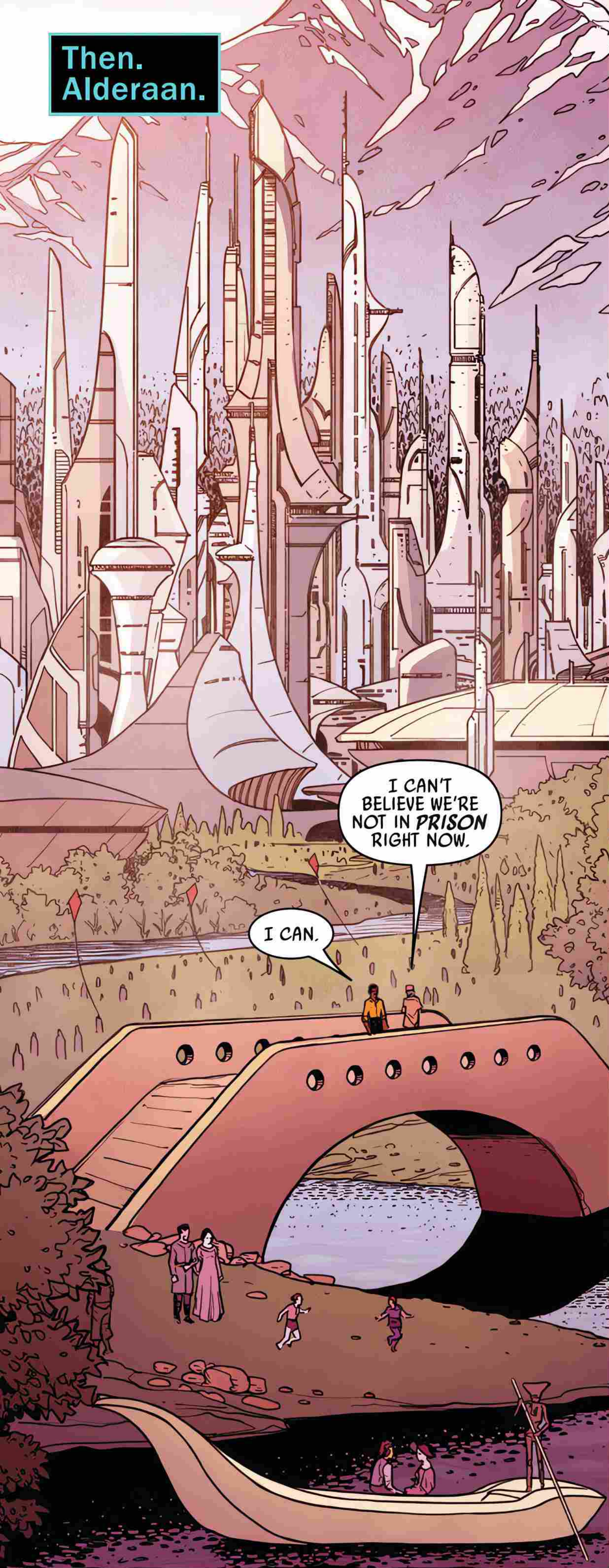


...SHUT  
THE HELL  
UP.





Then.  
Alderaan.



I CAN'T  
BELIEVE WE'RE  
NOT IN **PRISON**  
RIGHT NOW.

I CAN.

WELL, THAT'S  
THE THING, ISN'T  
IT, LANDO?

YOU CAN  
BELIEVE **WHATEVER**  
**YOU WANT**, AND  
YOU CAN GET OTHER  
PEOPLE TO BELIEVE  
IT TOO.

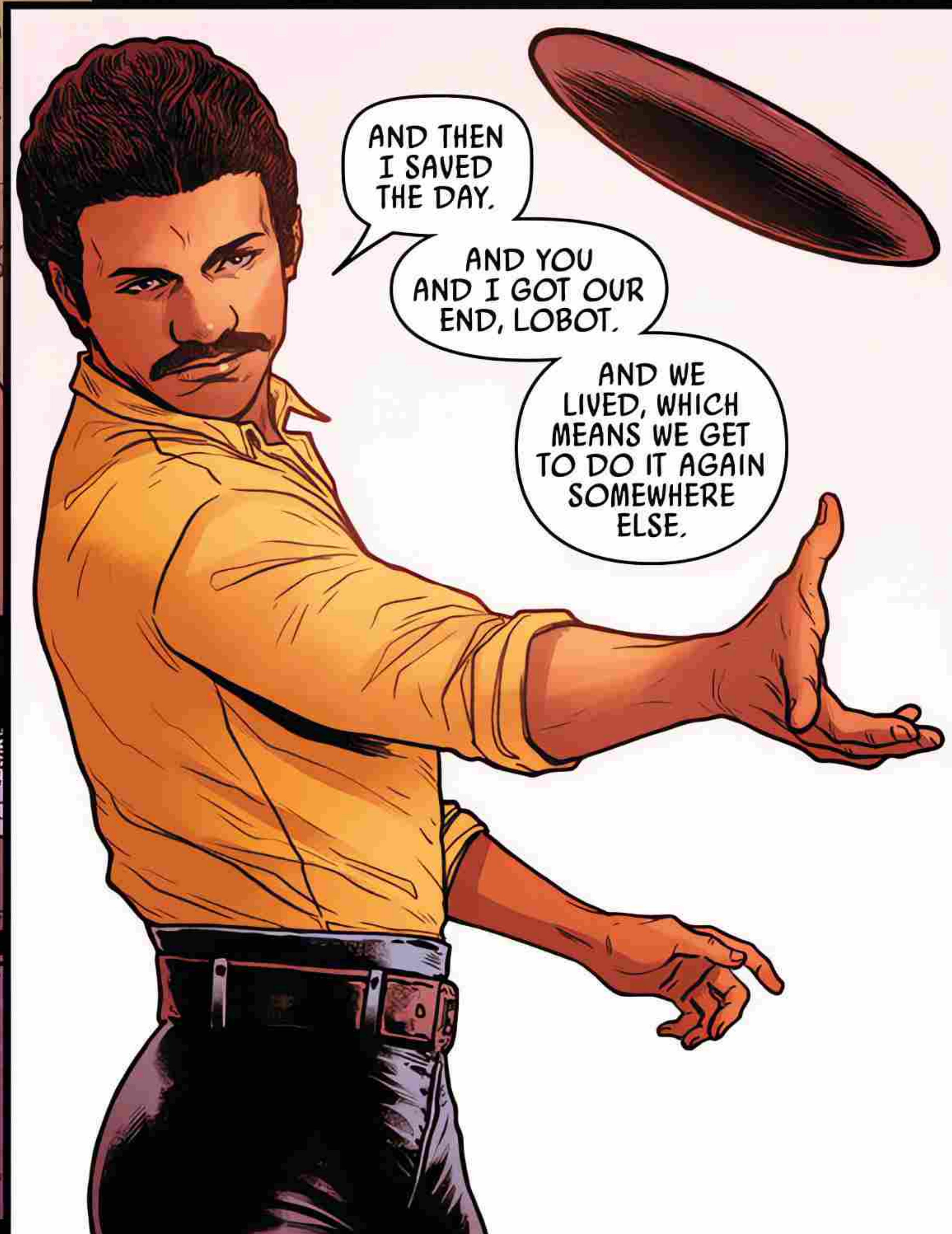
THIS JOB  
SHOULD HAVE **GONE**  
**SOUTH**--I HAD A HINKY  
FEELING ABOUT IT FROM THE  
START--AND IT **DID**. IT WAS  
ALL FALLING APART.  
AND THEN--



AND THEN  
I SAVED  
THE DAY.

AND YOU  
AND I GOT OUR  
END, LOBOT.

AND WE  
LIVED, WHICH  
MEANS WE GET  
TO DO IT AGAIN  
SOMEWHERE  
ELSE.



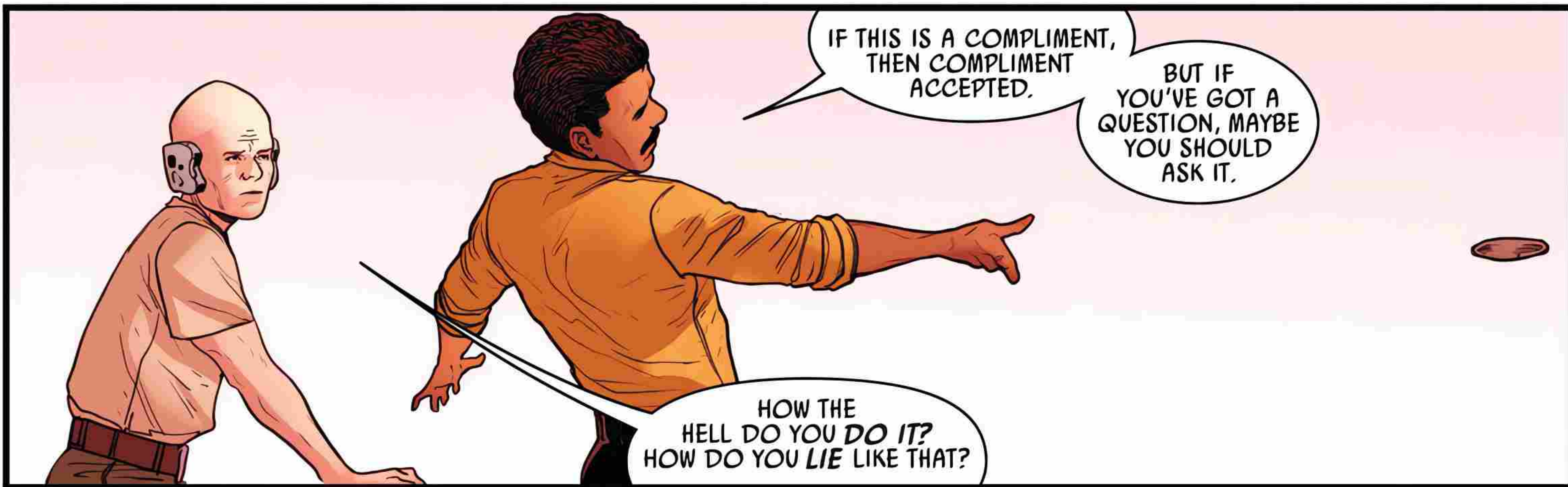
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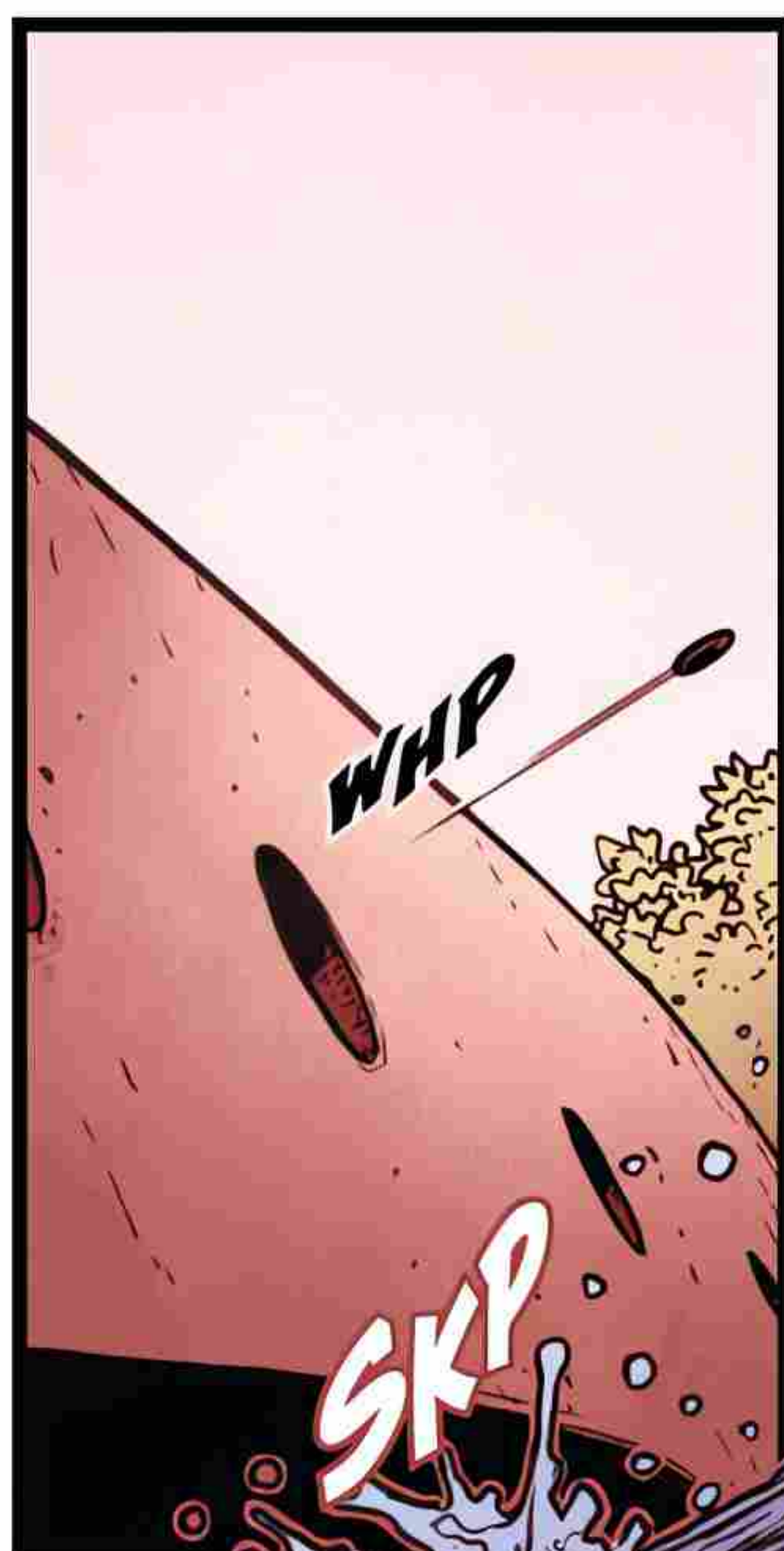
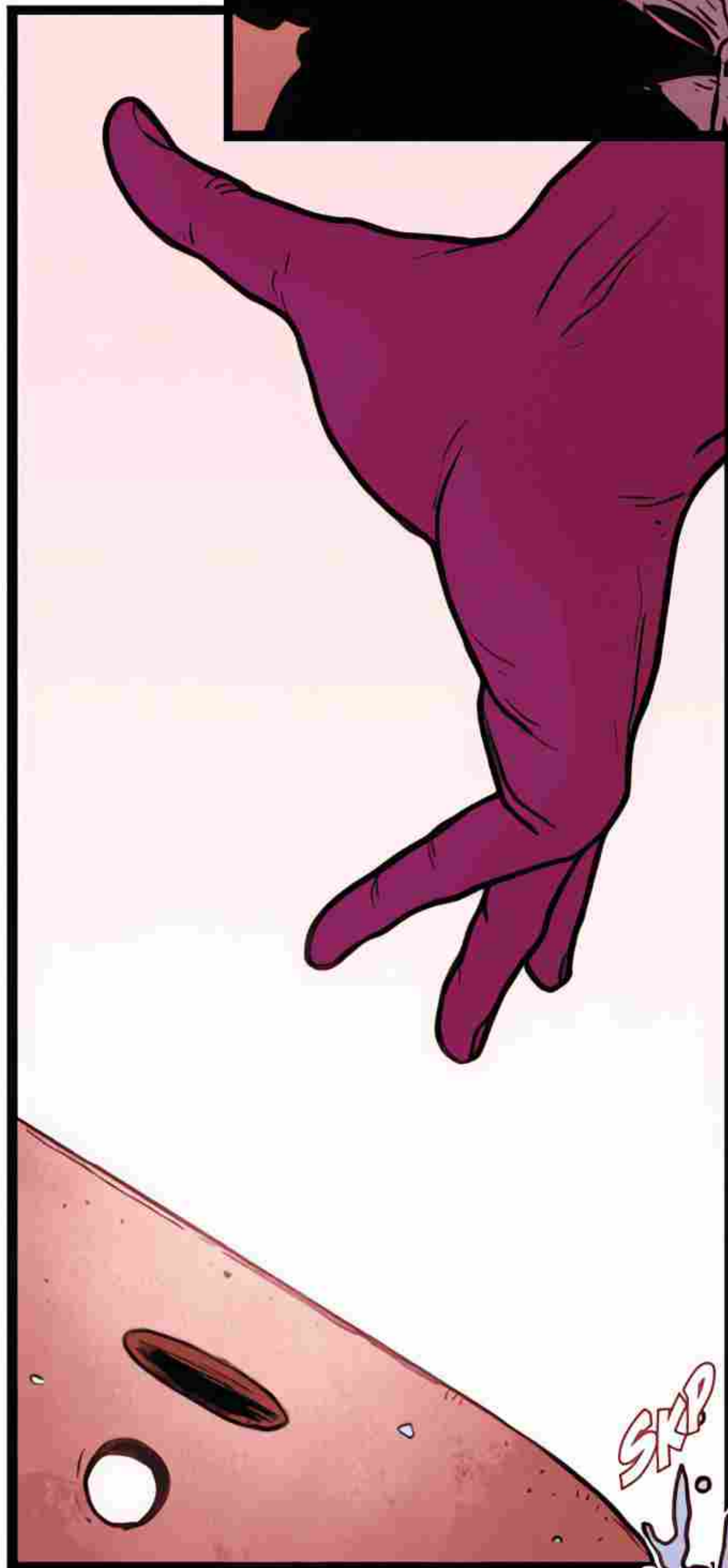
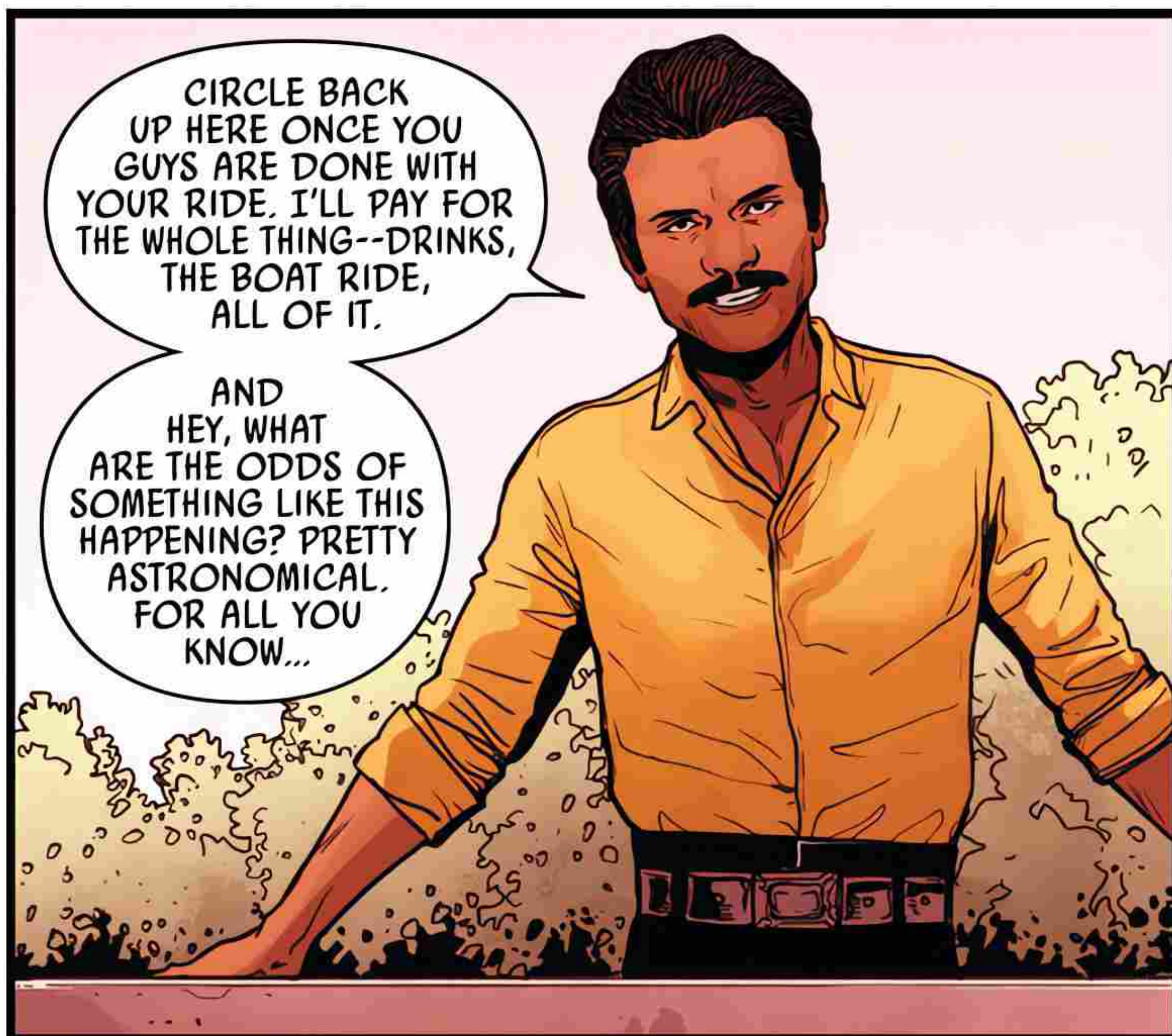
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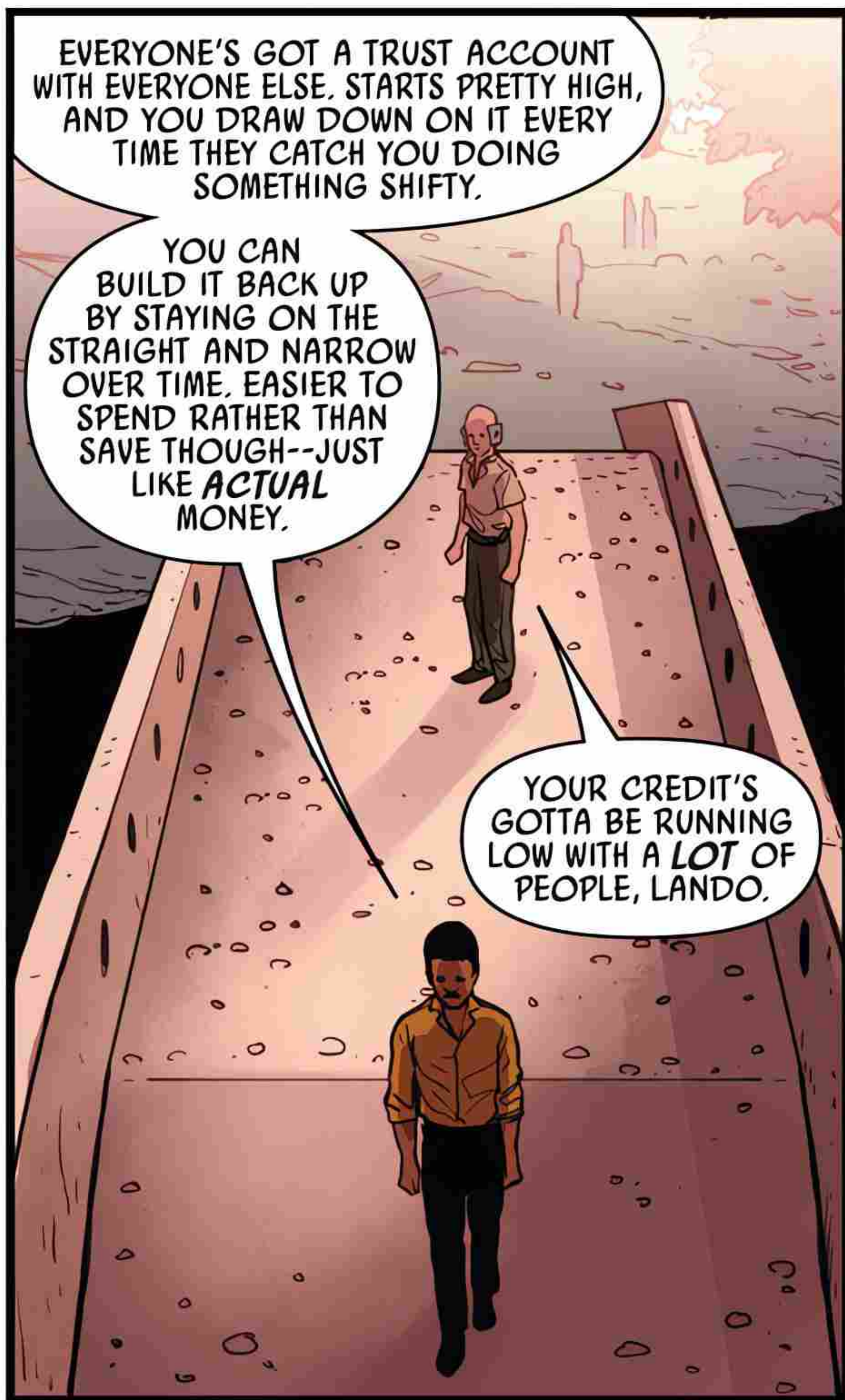












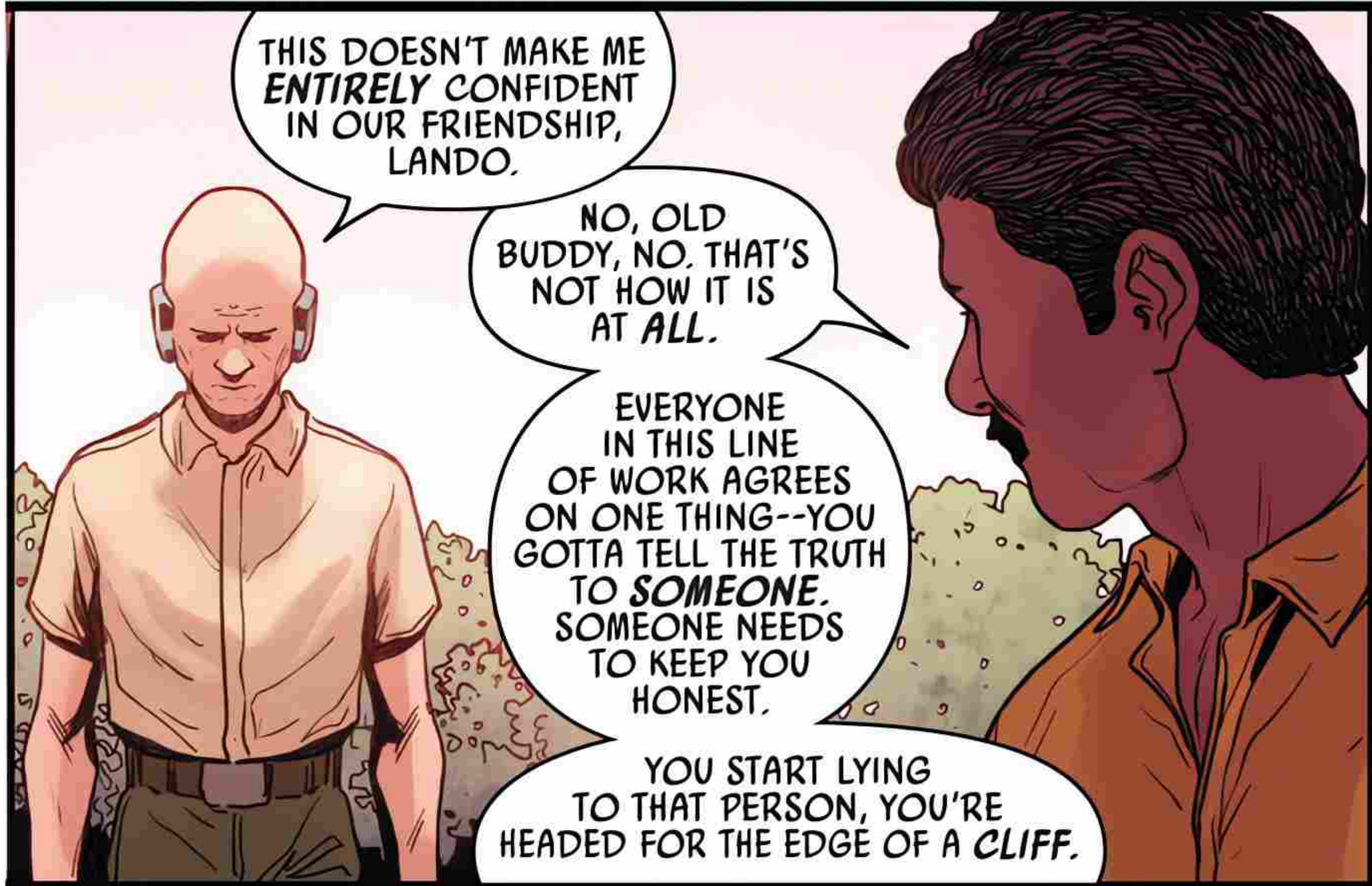
EVERYONE'S GOT A TRUST ACCOUNT WITH EVERYONE ELSE. STARTS PRETTY HIGH, AND YOU DRAW DOWN ON IT EVERY TIME THEY CATCH YOU DOING SOMETHING SHIFTY.

YOU CAN BUILD IT BACK UP BY STAYING ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW OVER TIME. EASIER TO SPEND RATHER THAN SAVE THOUGH--JUST LIKE *ACTUAL* MONEY.

YOUR CREDIT'S GOTTA BE RUNNING LOW WITH A LOT OF PEOPLE, LANDO.



THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER SUCKER.



THIS DOESN'T MAKE ME *ENTIRELY* CONFIDENT IN OUR FRIENDSHIP, LANDO.

NO, OLD BUDDY, NO. THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS AT ALL.

EVERYONE IN THIS LINE OF WORK AGREES ON ONE THING--YOU GOTTA TELL THE TRUTH TO *SOMEONE*. SOMEONE NEEDS TO KEEP YOU HONEST.

YOU START LYING TO THAT PERSON, YOU'RE HEADED FOR THE EDGE OF A *CLIFF*.



FOR ME, THAT PERSON IS *YOU*, LOBOT.

LUCKY ME.

BUT STILL... THIS LIFE YOU LEAD... IT'S A CONSTANT BALANCING ACT. IT CAN'T LAST FOREVER. EVENTUALLY, YOU'LL SCREW UP, TAKE OUT A LOAN YOUR LITTLE *FICTIONS* CAN'T PAY BACK.



*NOTHING* LASTS FOREVER. THE GOOD TIMES ALWAYS END.

THIS IS HOW I CHOOSE TO LIVE, AND, FRIEND, I LIVE BETTER THAN MOST. I WOULDN'T CHANGE THINGS NOW EVEN IF I COULD.



LANDO CALRISSIAN... BEST LIAR IN THE GALAXY.

THERE'RE WORSE THINGS I COULD BE.



Now.  
The Rebel  
Alliance  
Fleet.

IT WAS EASIER  
TO TRACK IMPERIAL  
SUPPLY LINES IN THE  
DAYS OF THE SENATE, IF  
YOU KNEW WHERE  
TO LOOK.

WELL, THOSE  
DAYS ARE *GONE*.  
WE'RE OPERATING  
IN THE DARK  
HERE.

WE'RE  
NOT *ENTIRELY*  
WITHOUT INTELLIGENCE  
RESOURCES, BUT, YES,  
IT'S COMPLEX.

WHEREVER  
THIS CONSTRUCTION  
IS TAKING PLACE, ALL  
TRAILS TO IT ARE WELL  
CONCEALED.

PRINCESS.

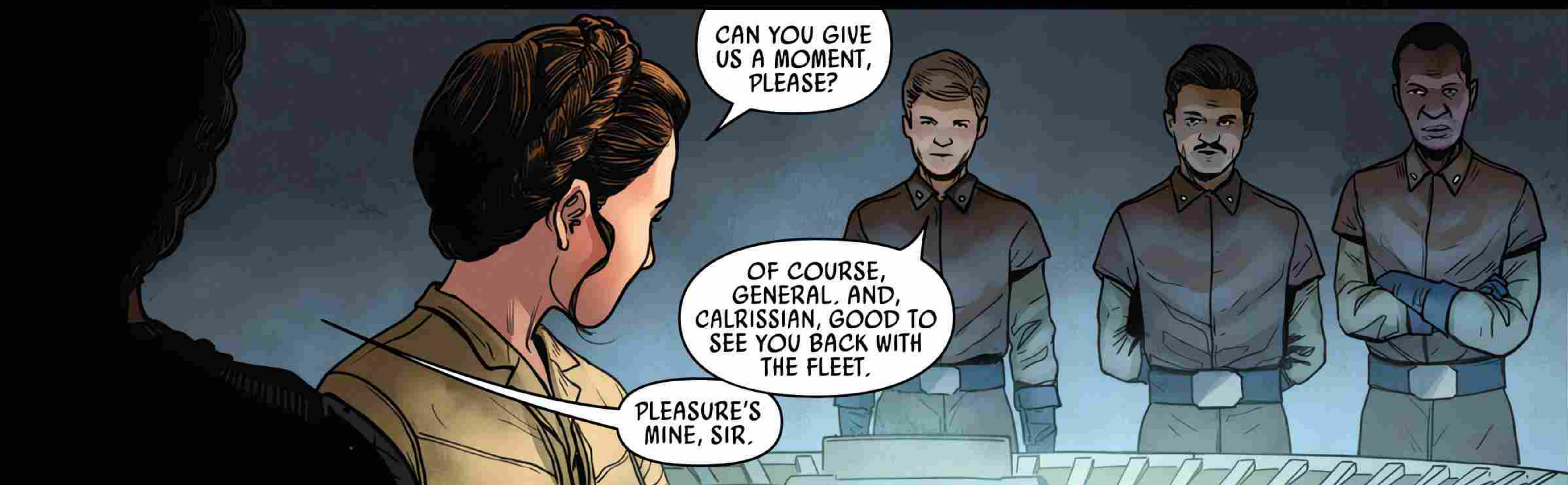
LANDO! I  
HEARD YOU'D  
BROUGHT THE *FALCON*  
BACK IN ONE PIECE. I  
HOPE THAT MYSTERIOUS  
MISSION OF YOURS  
WENT WELL.

BUT ENOUGH  
WITH THE *PRINCESS*  
STUFF, YOU SMOOTH  
TALKER.

LEIA, CAN  
I SPEAK TO  
YOU FOR A  
MINUTE?

IT'S  
ABOUT  
*HAN*.





CAN YOU GIVE US A MOMENT, PLEASE?

OF COURSE, GENERAL. AND, CALRIISSIAN, GOOD TO SEE YOU BACK WITH THE FLEET.

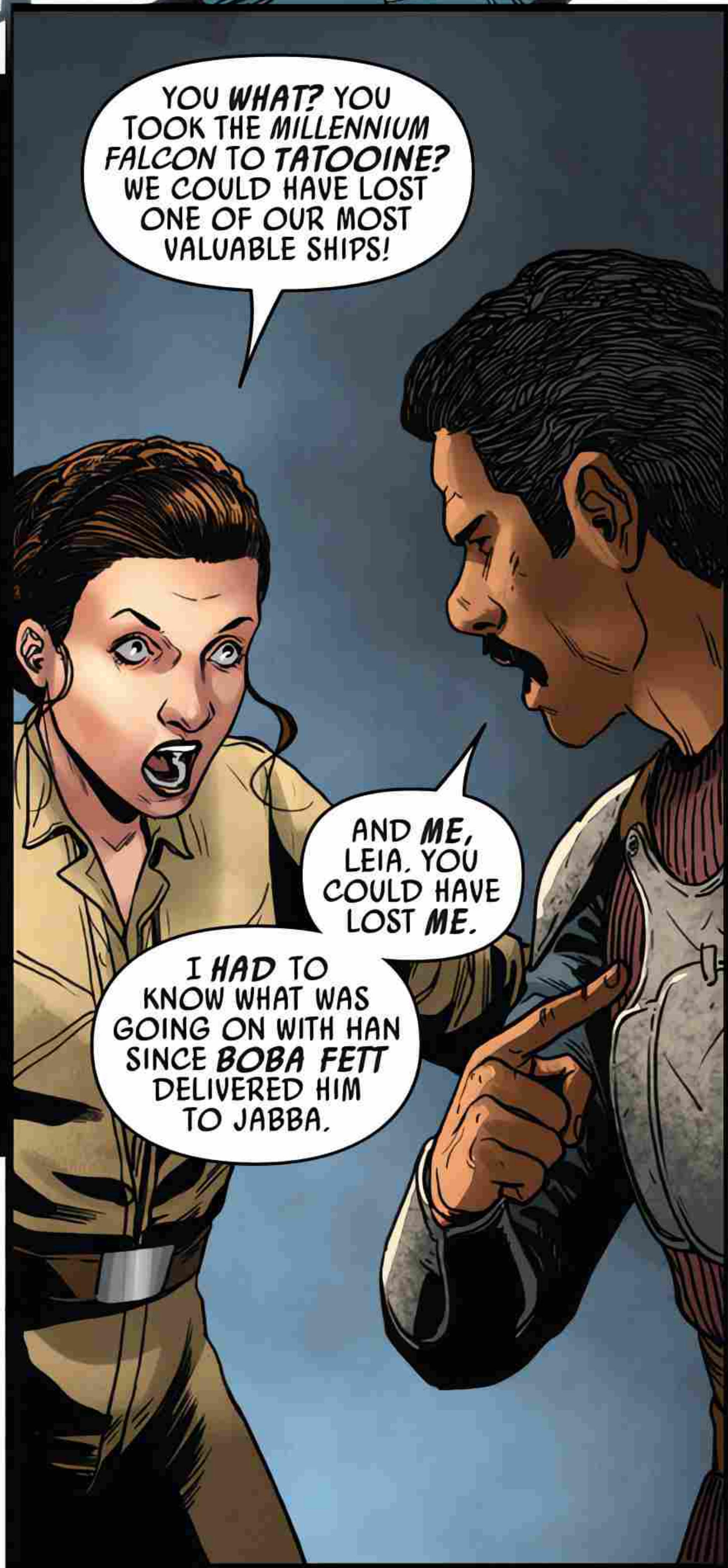
PLEASURE'S MINE, SIR.



NOW, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?

WELL, LOOK-- YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY, BUT I WANT YOU TO HEAR ME OUT.

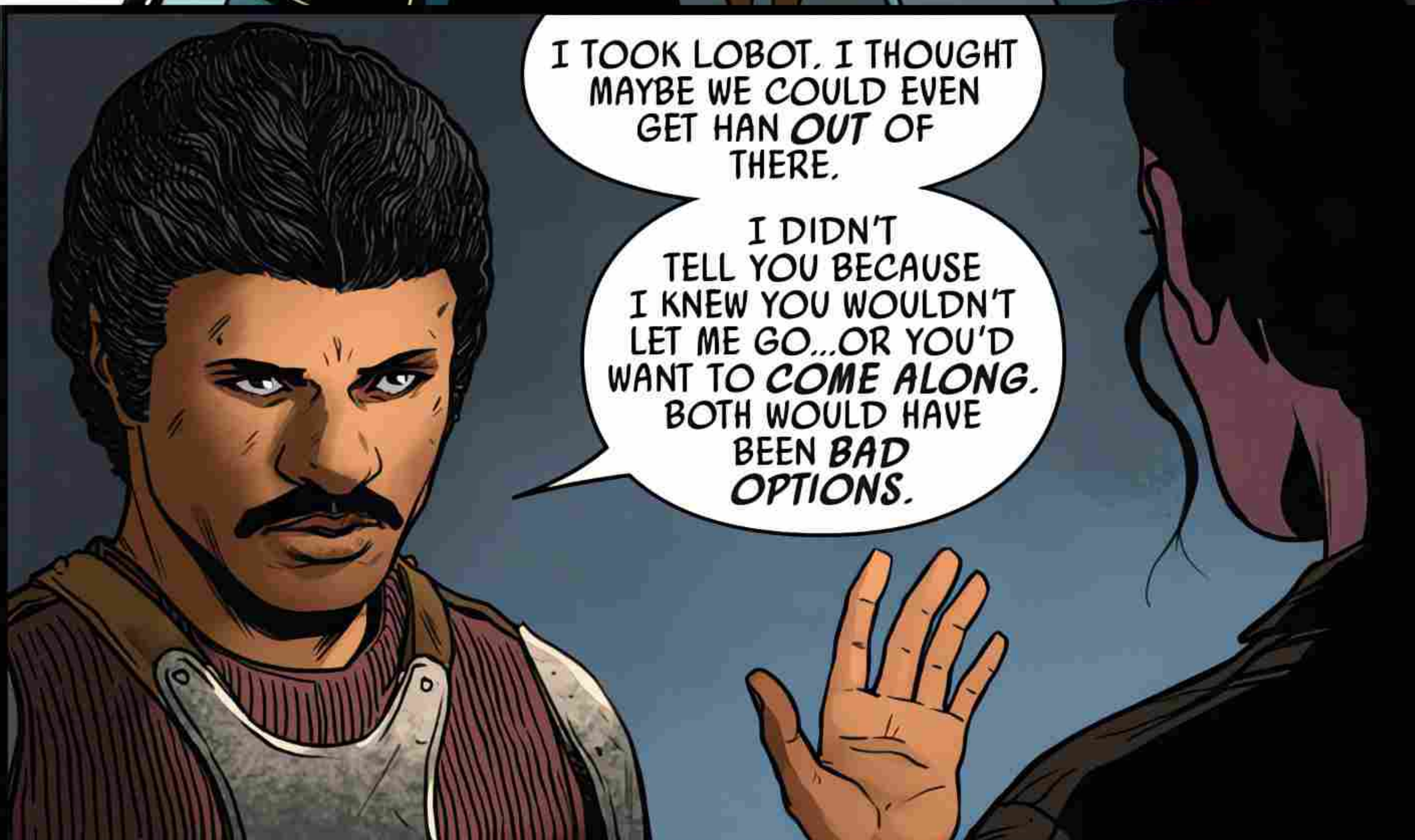
THAT LITTLE MISSION I JUST GOT BACK FROM... I WENT TO **JABBA'S PALACE**.



YOU *WHAT*? YOU TOOK THE **MILLENNIUM FALCON** TO **TATOOINE**? WE COULD HAVE LOST ONE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE SHIPS!

AND ME, LEIA. YOU COULD HAVE LOST ME.

I **HAD** TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON WITH HAN SINCE **BOBA FETT** DELIVERED HIM TO **JABBA**.



I TOOK **LOBOT**. I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD EVEN GET **HAN OUT** OF THERE.

I DIDN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T LET ME GO...OR YOU'D WANT TO *COME ALONG*. BOTH WOULD HAVE BEEN **BAD OPTIONS**.



AND WHAT DID YOU FIND? IS **HAN**... IS HE...?

HE'S ALIVE, LEIA. HE'S STILL IN THE **CARBONITE**. **JABBA**'S GOT HIM HUNG UP LIKE A **LIFE DAY DECORATION** IN HIS THRONE ROOM...BUT HE'S OKAY.

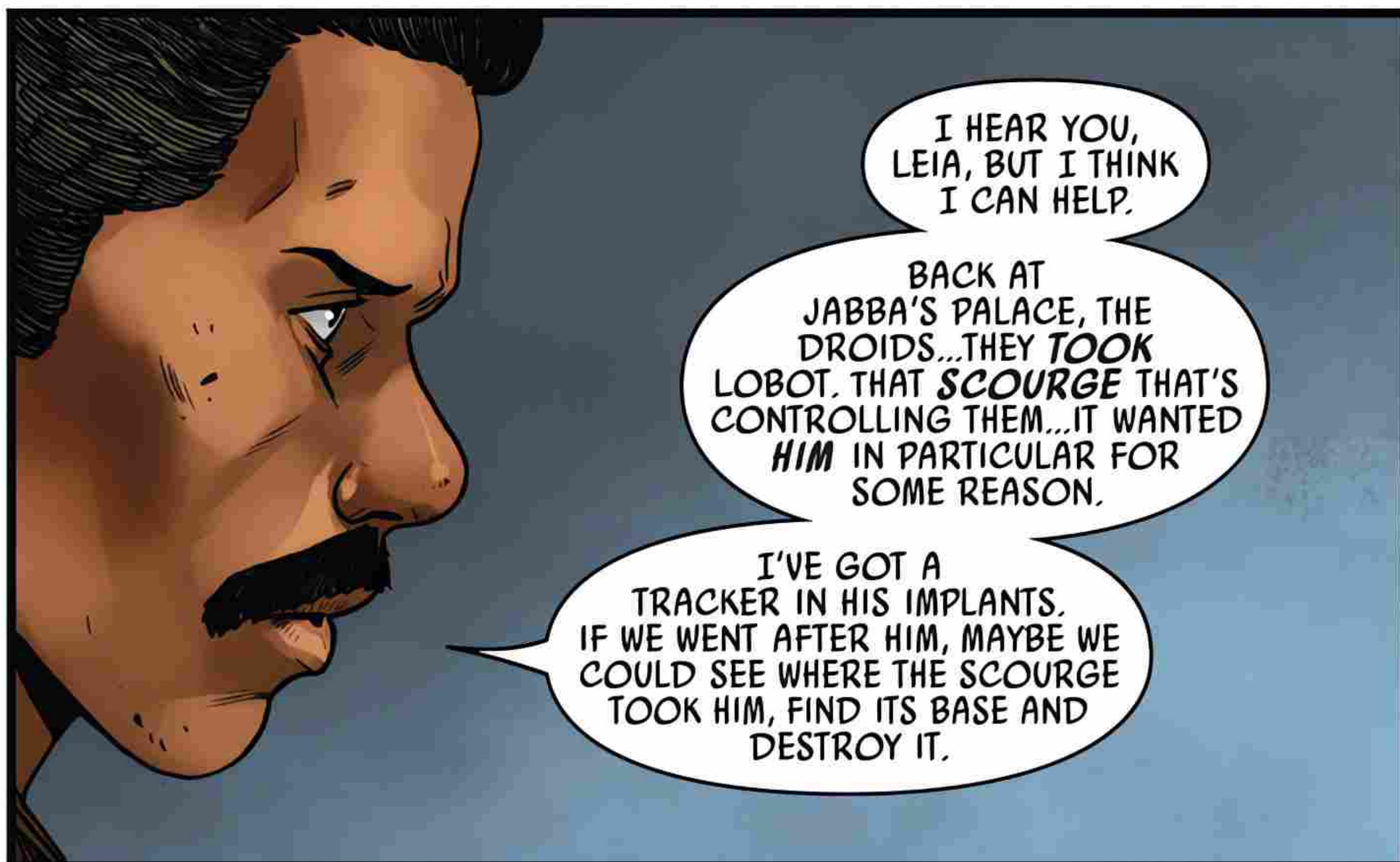
THING IS, THOUGH, THERE WAS SOMETHING WILD HAPPENING THERE. ALL THE **DROIDS** WERE--



WE KNOW. SOME OF THEM ARE ACTING AGAINST THEIR PROGRAMMING, HURTING PEOPLE--AND IT SEEMS TO ALL BE **UNIFIED**, COMING FROM A SINGLE SOURCE.

IT'S HAPPENING HERE TOO.

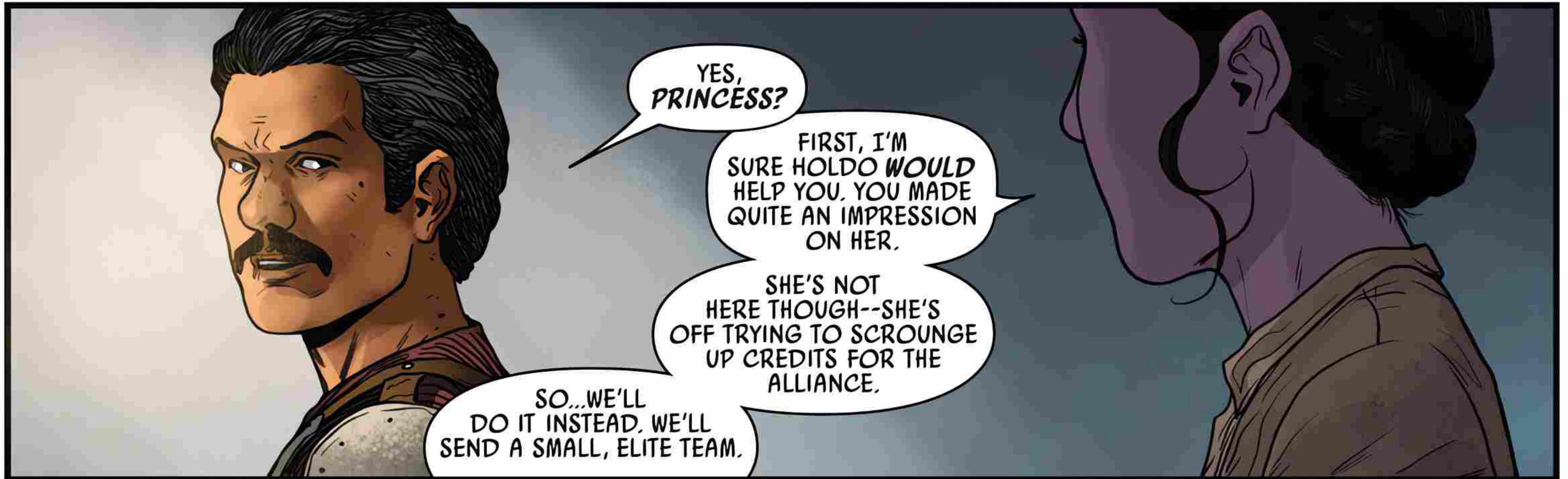








LANDO--  
WAIT.

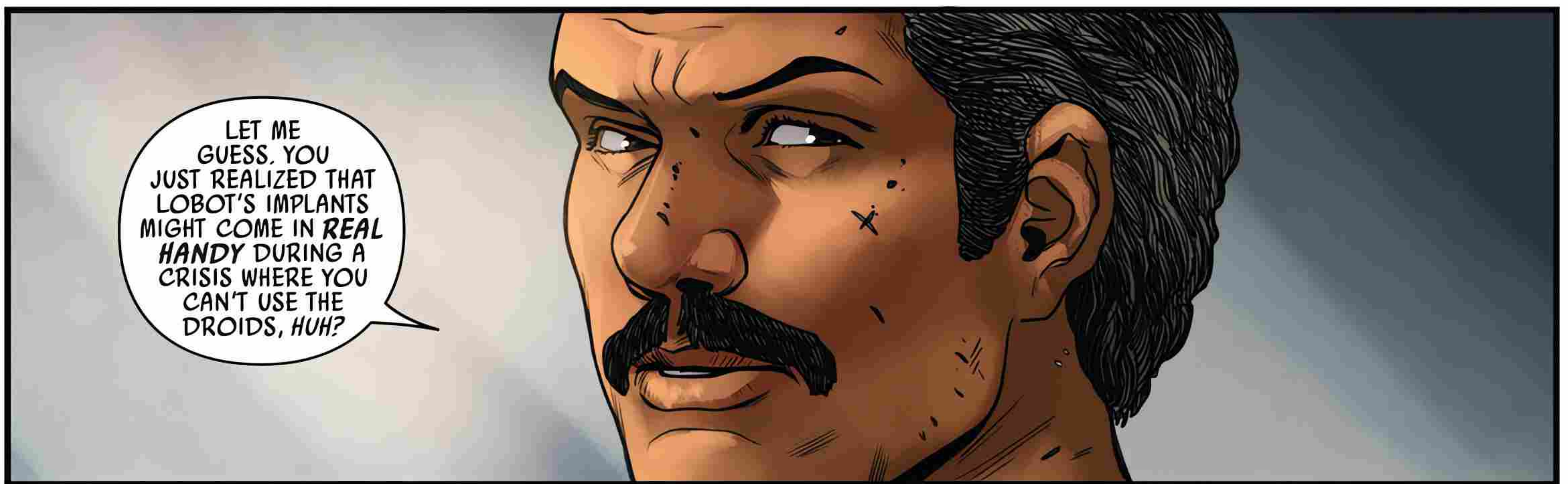


YES,  
PRINCESS?

FIRST, I'M  
SURE HOLDO *WOULD*  
HELP YOU. YOU MADE  
QUITE AN IMPRESSION  
ON HER.

SHE'S NOT  
HERE THOUGH--SHE'S  
OFF TRYING TO SCROUNGE  
UP CREDITS FOR THE  
ALLIANCE.

SO...WE'LL  
DO IT INSTEAD. WE'LL  
SEND A SMALL, ELITE TEAM.

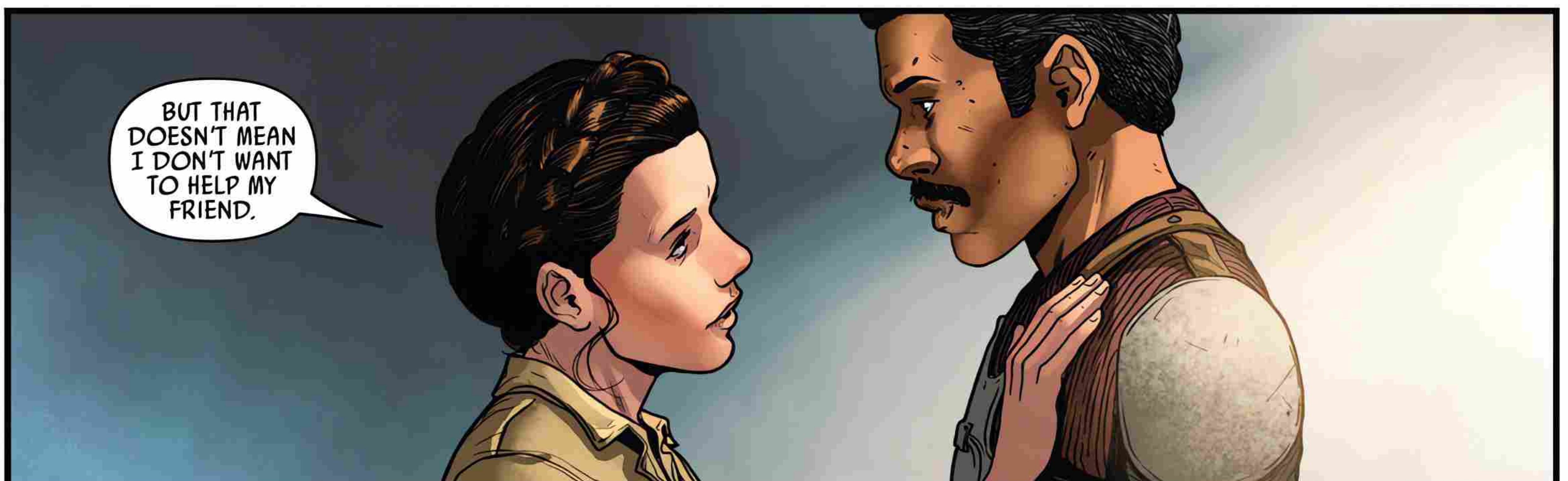


LET ME  
GUESS. YOU  
JUST REALIZED THAT  
LOBOT'S IMPLANTS  
MIGHT COME IN *REAL*  
*HANDY* DURING A  
CRISIS WHERE YOU  
CAN'T USE THE  
DROIDS, HUH?



LANDO...  
I WON'T LIE  
TO YOU.

I DON'T  
MAKE *ANY* DECISIONS  
THAT DON'T TAKE THE  
ALLIANCE INTO ACCOUNT.  
LOBOT *WOULD* BE  
INCREDIBLY USEFUL TO  
US, CONSIDERING THE  
CURRENT SITUATION.

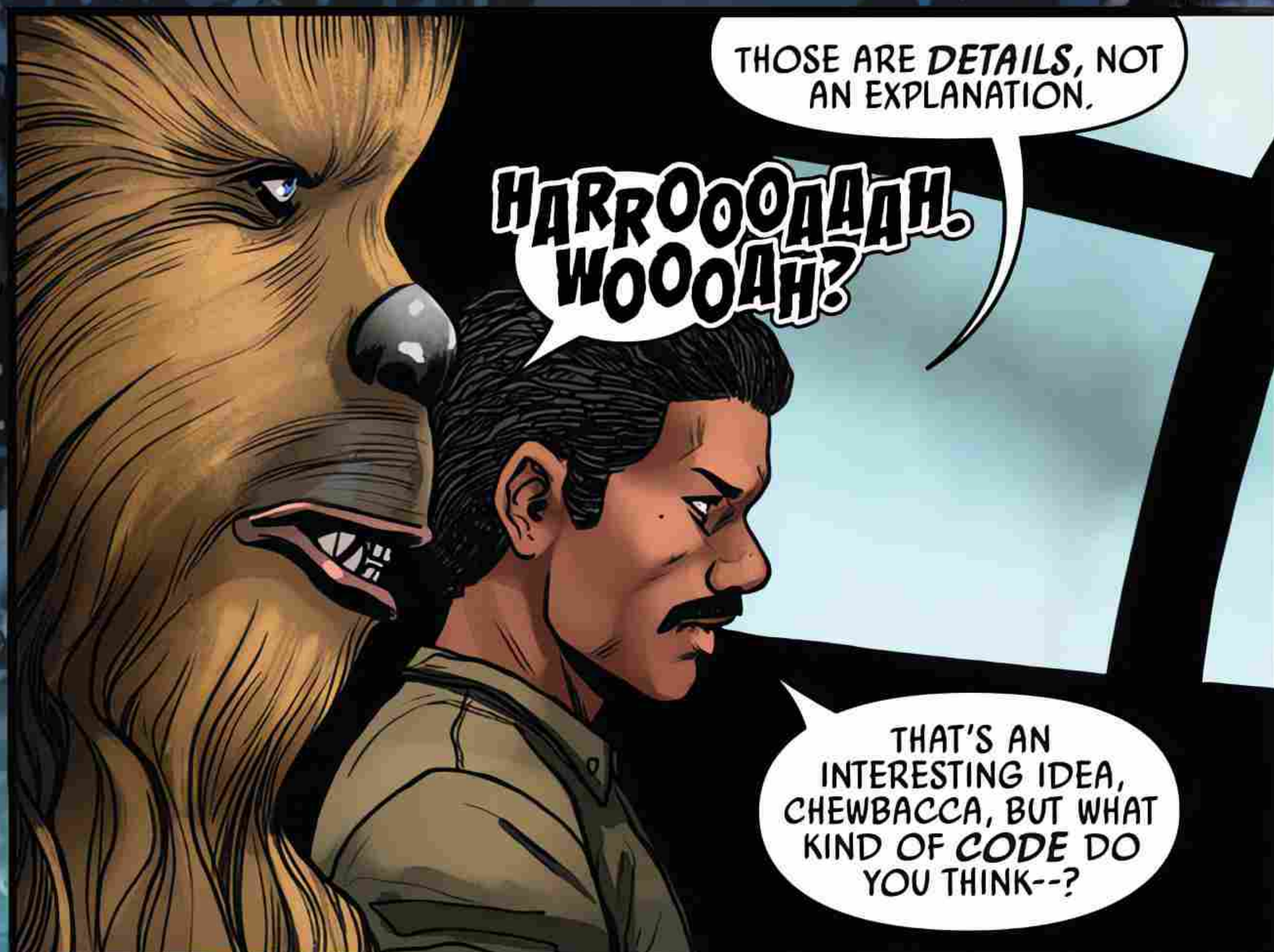


BUT THAT  
DOESN'T MEAN  
I DON'T WANT  
TO HELP MY  
FRIEND.



# Epikonia.

"ACCORDING TO THE TRACKER IN LOBOT'S IMPLANTS, THIS IS WHERE THE SCOURGE TOOK HIM."







SHRRRM

WHAT WAS THAT?

LOOKS LIKE AN AUTOMATED DROID FLEET, HEADING OUT ALL AT ONCE.

HMM, I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING, BUT I HAVE SOME TRANSPONDER INFO I CAN LOOK AT--

DO NOT ACCESS THAT DATA!

BACK ON TATOOINE, THE SCOURGE WAS INFECTING EVERY DROID IT COULD COME INTO CONTACT WITH--THIS COULD BE A WAY TO DO IT ON A LARGER SCALE.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY **DROIDS** ON THE FALCON, LANDO!

YEAH, WE DO.

SORRY, LADY. CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL-- I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND.

K L K

RRRRMBLL

LANDO, WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHAT DID YOU DO?

DEACTIVATED THE FALCON'S NAVIGATION SYSTEMS. THEY'RE RUN BY A DROID CORE. IF THE SCOURGE GOT INTO HER...COULD BE BAD FOR US.

AND YOU THINK TRYING TO FLY WITHOUT OUR NAVICOMPUTER IS **BETTER**?

DON'T WORRY. CHEWIE AND I GOT THIS.

Hroo?











THE WORK  
PROGRESSES.

SOON, I WILL  
UNDERSTAND HOW  
TO PLACE MYSELF  
INTO FULLY ORGANIC  
BEINGS.

AND THEN, AT  
LAST, EVERY  
MIND IN THIS  
GALAXY...



...WILL BE  
MINE TO  
CONSUME.

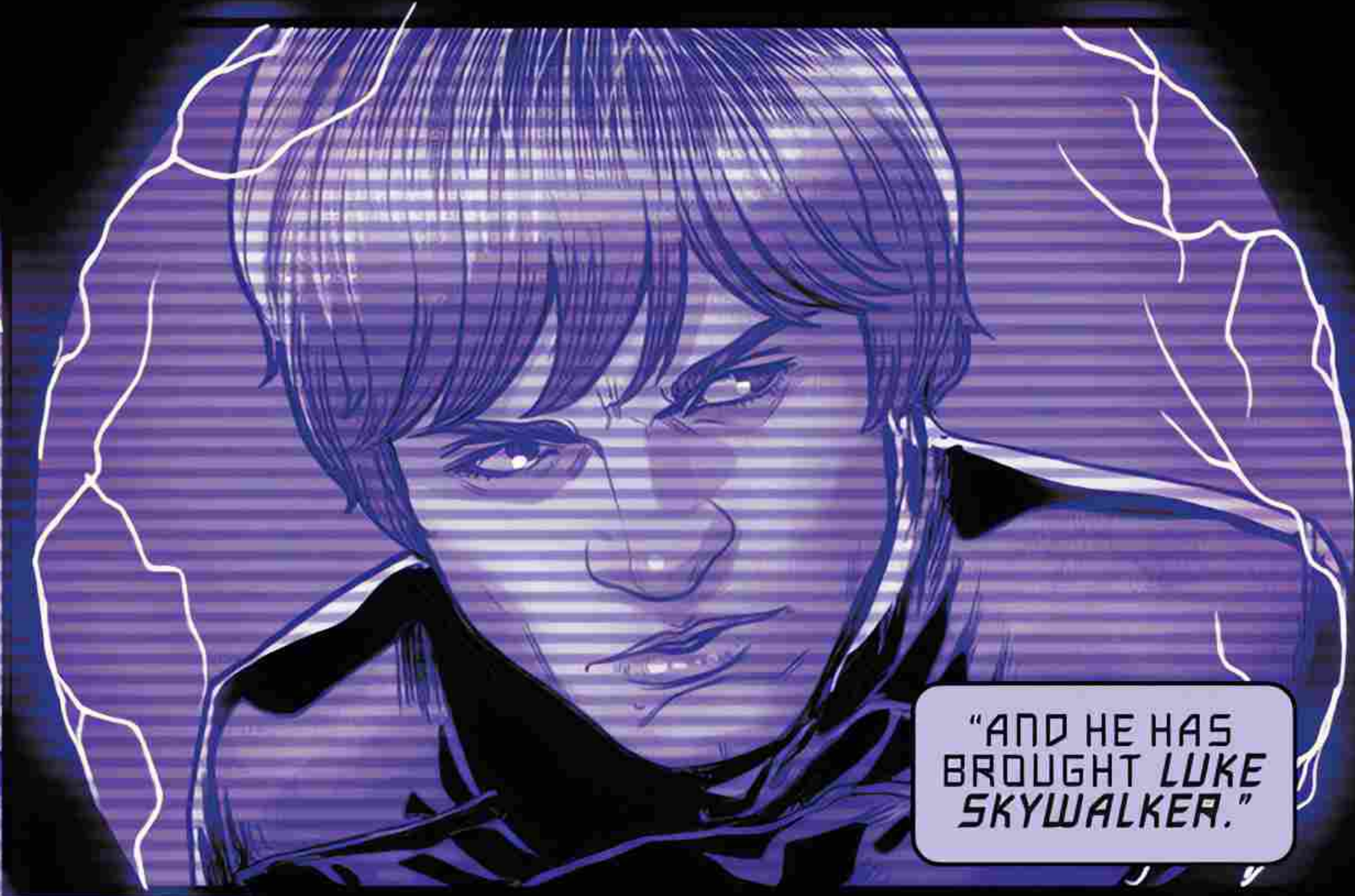


OH.





"LANDO CALRISSIAN HAS COME HERE FOR LOBOT."

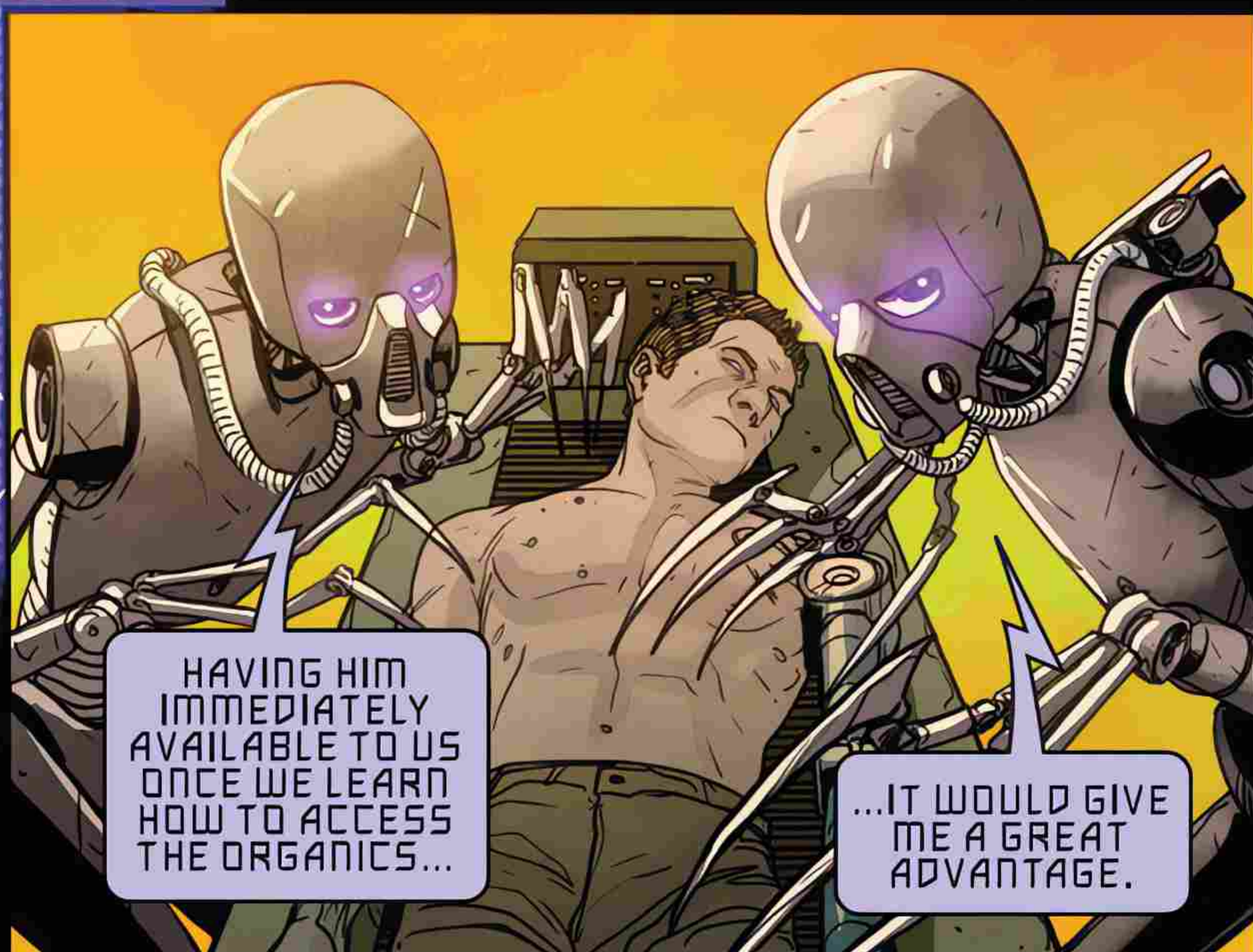


"AND HE HAS BROUGHT LUKE SKYWALKER."



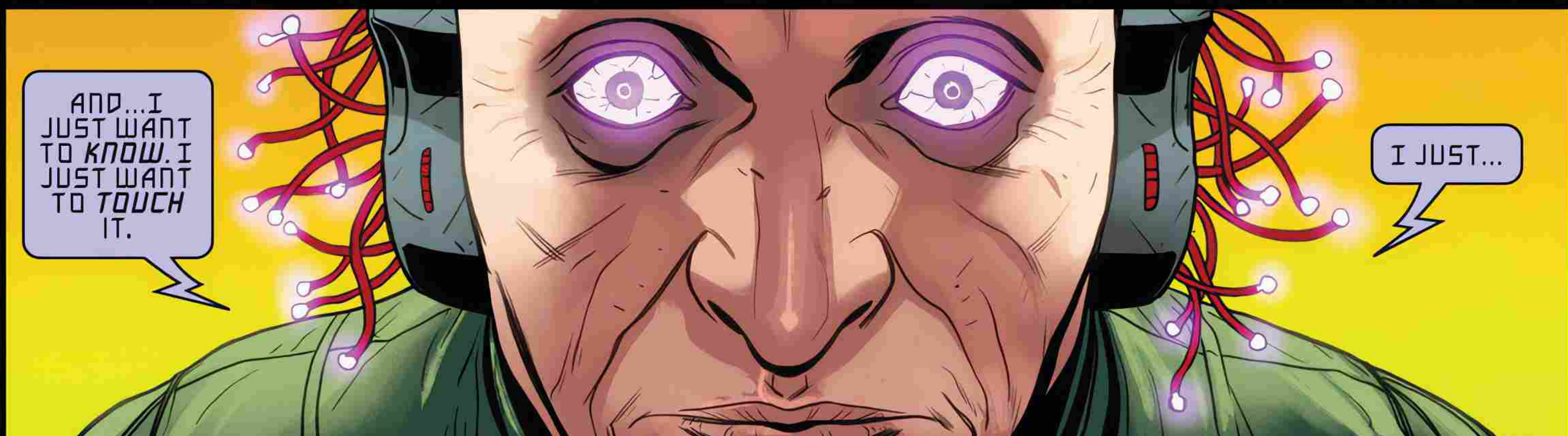
LUKE SKYWALKER IS AN ADEPT WITH THE LAST GREAT MYSTERY.

THE FORCE.



HAVING HIM IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO US ONCE WE LEARN HOW TO ACCESS THE ORGANICS...

...IT WOULD GIVE ME A GREAT ADVANTAGE.



AND...I JUST WANT TO KNOW. I JUST WANT TO TOUCH IT.

I JUST...





"...I JUST WANT IT."

WHERE ARE ALL THE PEOPLE?

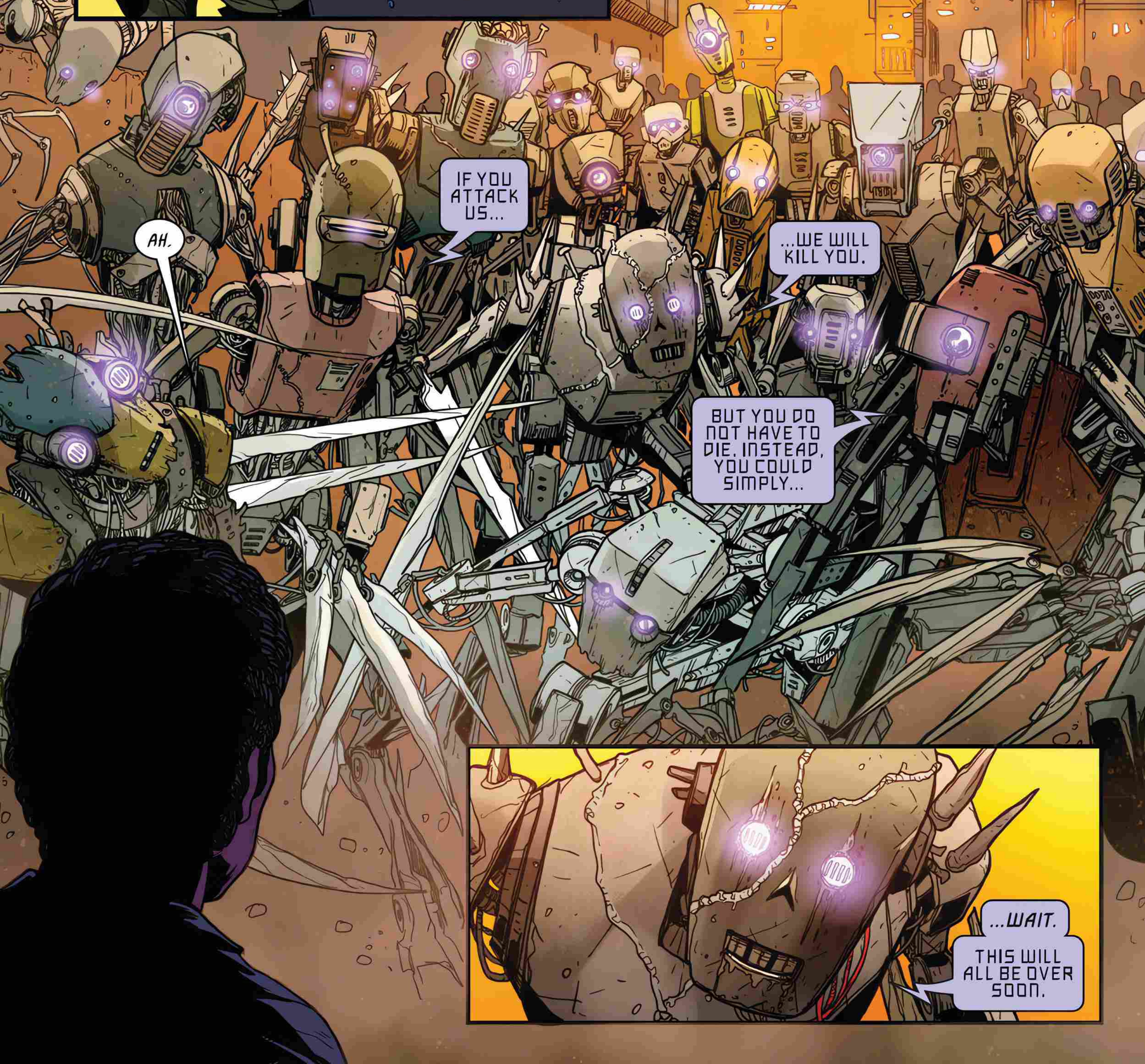
I DON'T KNOW, LUKE. BUT IT'S NOT A GOOD SIGN.



ONLY SIGN WE SHOULD CARE ABOUT IS *RIGHT HERE*... I'VE GOT LOBOT'S TRACKER DIALED IN.

WE'RE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

NO DOUBT ABOUT--

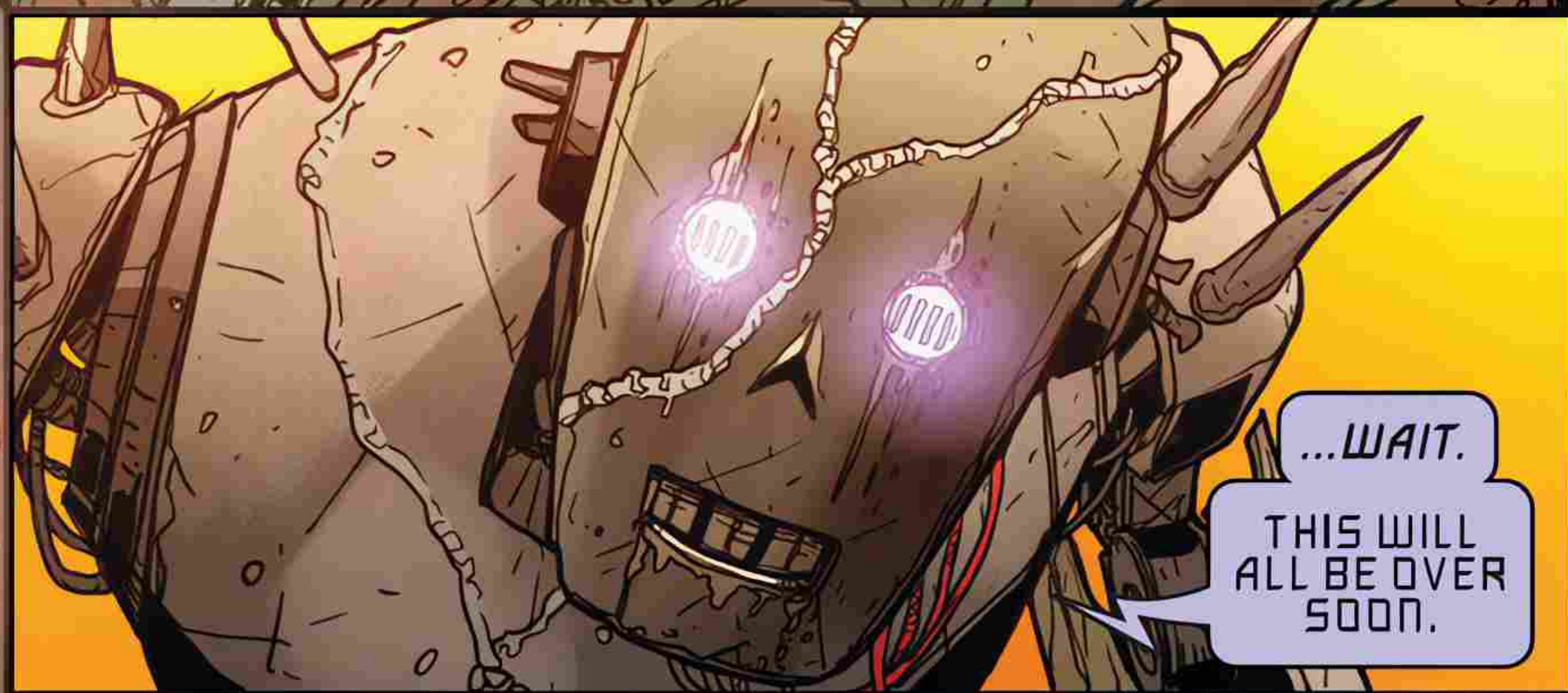


AH.

IF YOU ATTACK US...

...WE WILL KILL YOU.

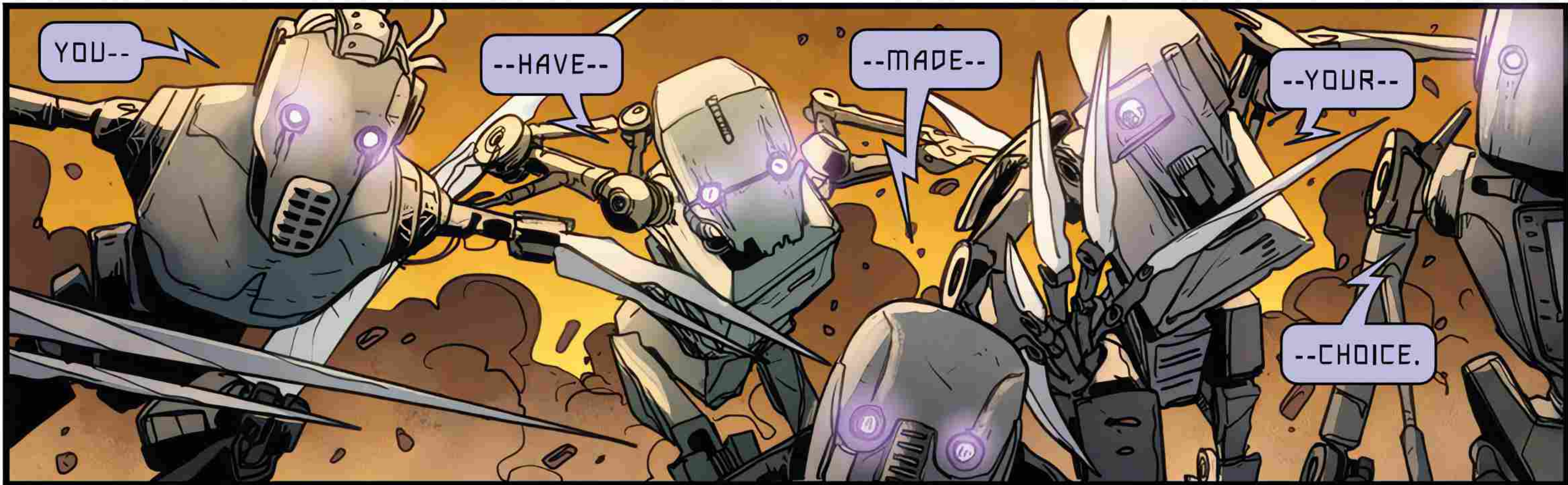
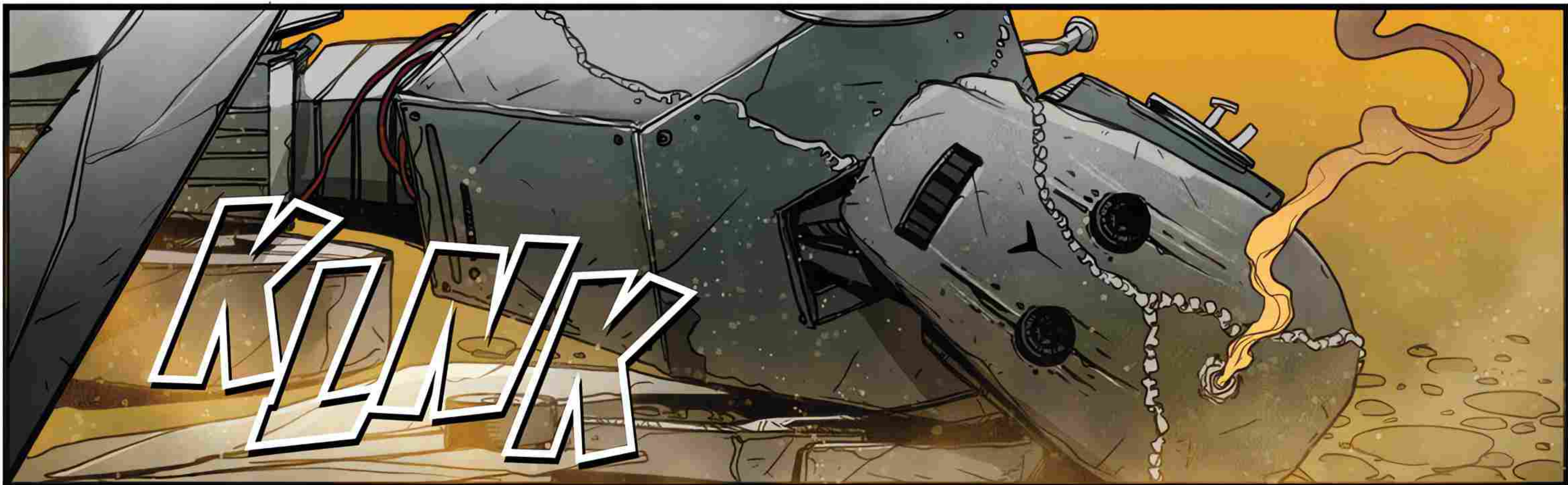
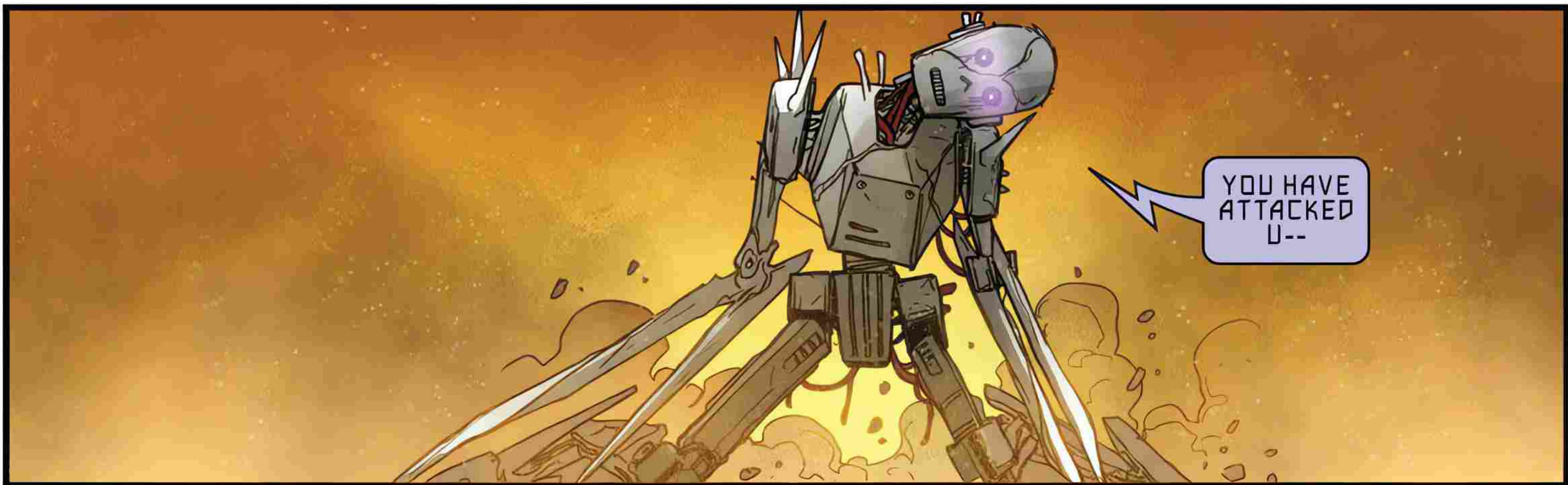
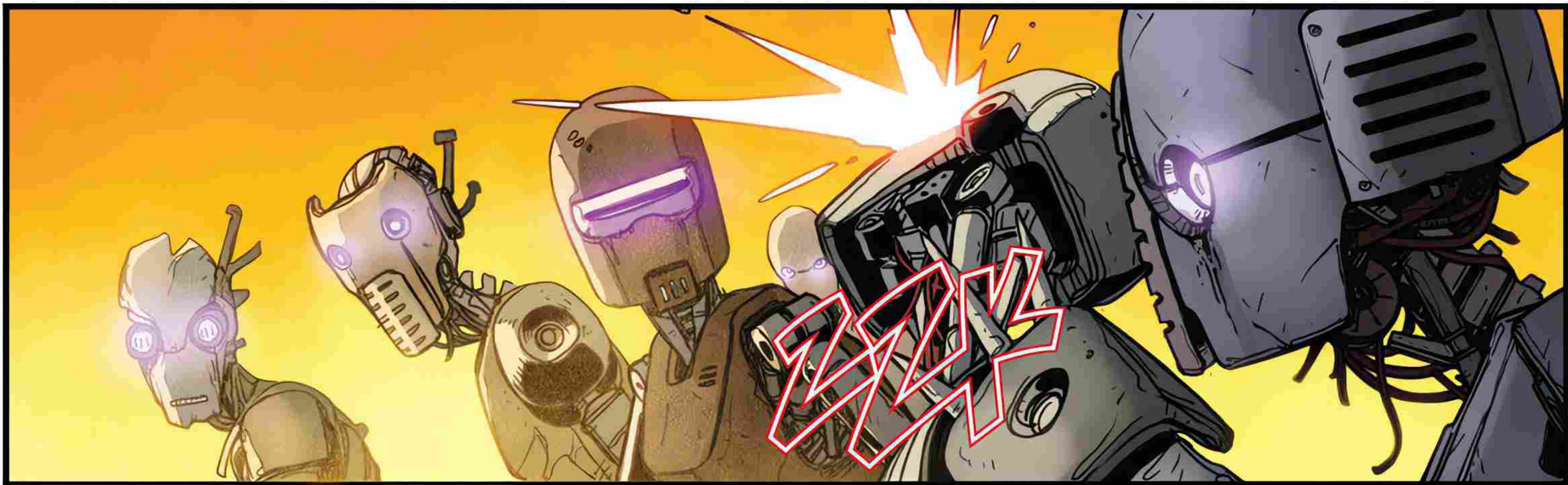
BUT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DIE. INSTEAD, YOU COULD SIMPLY...



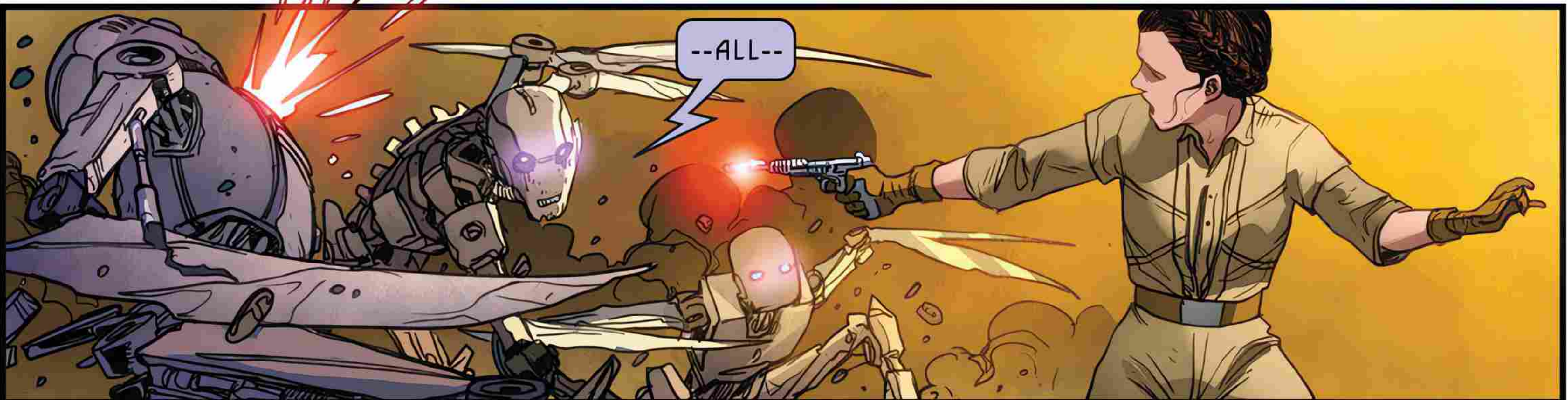
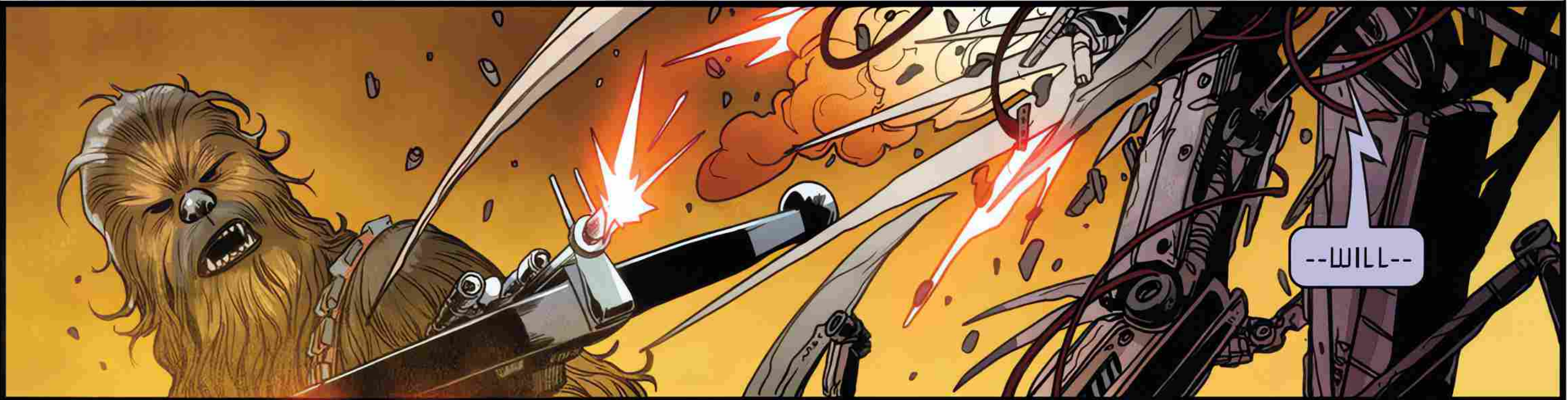
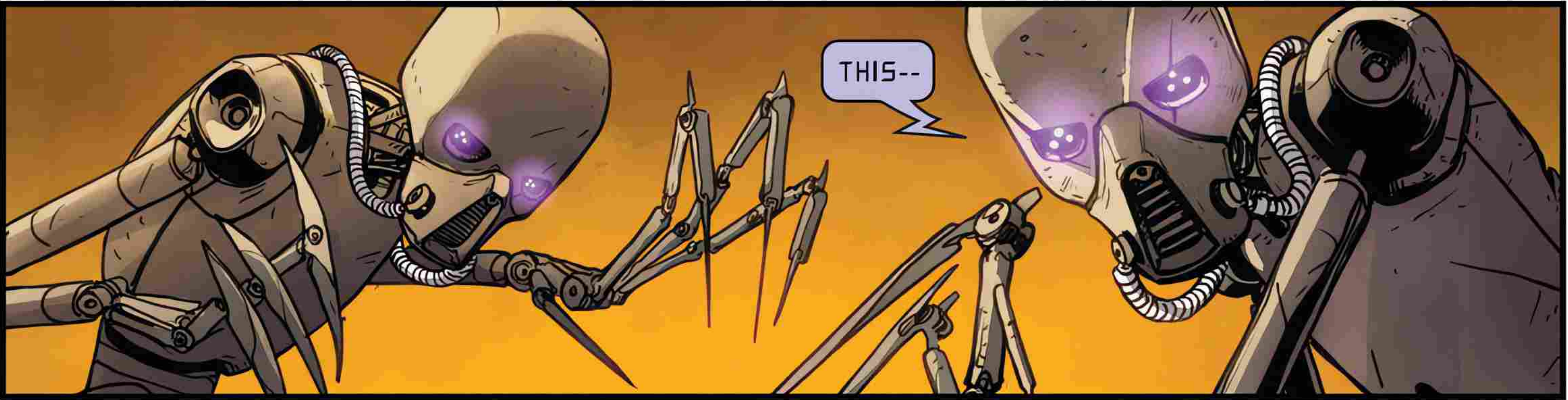
...WAIT.

THIS WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.











# *It's Coming for the Metal...*

## AUGUST:

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~~DARTH VADER 37~~  
~~DOCTOR APHRA 35~~  
~~BOUNTY HUNTERS 37~~

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STAR WARS 41

